

VOL. I.—No. 1.]

OCTOBER, 1853.

[THREEPENCE.]

To the Public.

EVERY monarch has his laureate—every hero his historiographer. How poor would be the pageants of the one, how circumscribed the glory of the other, but for the inspiring song and the commemorating story! So it was felt in those rudest ages when height of stature and strength of limb were the primal qualifications for kingship, and the heroic "might of weakness" was unknown. As the reign of violence gave place to that of cunning, the gift of the bard and the chronicler became more and more honoured; till now, in the days of an almost universal ability to read, and an unparalleled facility of literary communication, every incident above the level of the most ordinary occurrences, every character at all eminent for force or beauty, is illustrated and polarized, and struggles to become perpetuated, by means of the artist's or the author's power.

Victoria has her Tennyson—the Houses of Parliament have a *corps* of contemporary historians—every institution in the realm has its representatives in that fourth estate, the press. Why should the People's Palace be an exception to this modern form of a world-old rule? It was felt, long before the completion of the novel structure so entitled, that such an exception would be impossible—that besides the special efforts made by the general press of the country to meet such an unique demand upon its powers, a particular illustration and record of the Great Exhibition should be attempted. The *Illustrated Expositor*, and similar journals, were the result of that very obvious necessity. They passed away with the occasion that gave them birth, or lingered not long after. The Crystal Palace again approaches completion—a more perfect and permanent form is about to be given to the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations—and up to the moment of this writing, no special chronicle of its progress and exponent of its treasures is in existence.

That vacant office the *ILLUSTRATED CRYSTAL PALACE GAZETTE* aspires to fill. The endeavour is not an unambitious one—but neither is it made without the resources and resolutions that may de-

serve, if not command, success. We, its conductors, have surveyed the whole field on which we enter, and calculated our ability to occupy it. We have a lofty notion of the capabilities—the re-creative, educational, and moral capabilities—of the Sydenham Crystal Palace. We do not reckon it merely a spectacle or playground—an English Versailles or upper Vauxhall, an Alhambra of pleasure, an Elysium of sensuous delights; though in this point of view, it will undoubtedly surpass all precedent, overmatch all rivalry, and mark a new epoch in the pregnant history of popular amusements. We look upon the translucent and long-drawn arches, the high-leaping fountains, the wide-spread and beautiful parterres, that will shortly draw admiring thousands to Sydenham, as only the first and lowest of the class of facts that should attract thither the glance of thoughtful and philanthropic men. We regard these as but the flowerly approaches to a school of philosophy, science, and art—a temple of the virtues and graces. We anticipate, from the universal interpretation of the universal experience, that the bringing together under one roof of all "representative" objects—specimens of whatsoever nature produces or man can fabricate—a means of instruction such as no other age or country has ever enjoyed; the concentration, for the rich, of all the advantages and pleasures which museums and galleries can afford; the presentation of those concentrated advantages and pleasures to the poor equally with the rich. And lastly—we believe that to place within the reach of all classes of this densely populated land, a source of recreation and instruction such as this, must tend in the nature of things, and may be relied upon under the blessing of Providence, to morally elevate and bless the whole community—helping, powerfully, to imbue the frivolous with a sense of human dignity, to touch some spring of tenderness in the rudest, to win the sensual to an appreciation of nobler than sensual pleasures, to cheer with at least transient gleams the lot of hard and ill-requited toil, to draw out the latent sympathies of class with class; in short, to aid in unnumbered ways the promotion of personal, domestic, and social good.

In conformity with these views will be our con-

duct of this magazine. It is our primary purpose to chronicle the progress of the Palace and the Exhibition; and as the latter is designed to be an ever-growing, ever-perfected institution, this portion of our task will be of indefinite duration. We shall endeavour next to analyze and illustrate their contents. In this almost boundless field we shall be assisted by artists and writers of high competence; sparing no pains nor expense to present to the mind's eye of the reader, the choicest specimens of what will meet his bodily optics as he walks the nave, galleries, groves, and gardens of the Palace. The contents of our present number may serve as an earnest of what is intended in this respect; and we may mention as further indicative thereof, that the several eras of architecture—as illustrated by the Egyptian, Assyrian, Mediæval, and other "courts"—will be treated of in successive articles. To science, whether in the necessary explanation of its principles, or merely of their application, large space will be given. Especially will such of the arts as bear on our daily and common life, to adorn and fructify it—the improvement of our dwellings, the mitigation of our natural calamities, and so forth—be kept before our readers. Questions of public interest, moreover,—in their bearing upon the above-named characteristics of our central subject,—will be regarded as not foreign to our pages.

In conclusion we may say—Having, of course, none other connexion with the Crystal Palace than any of our readers may have; asking of the Company nothing but such facilities for the prosecution of our design as are commonly awarded—we are free to criticise as well as to report. We expect, like them, to succeed, but according to our merits; yet hope, with them,

"To swell the triumph and pursue the gale."

IRELAND'S ANNUS MIRABILIS.

EIGHTEEN FIFTY-ONE was a year of universal interest—a new epoch in the history of all countries, for it was the year of the Exhibition of the Industry of ALL Nations. It was an event of which it might be said, as was said by Burke of



the French revolution, "it is without precedent;" but not with Burke's inference, "and, therefore, without portent." Though the world had never before seen its like, every one was sure that its like would often be seen in future. It resembled, at least, in one particular, that of which Milton tells us, all who beheld admired,—admiring, applauded the author—and wondered it had been left to him to originate. The design was grand in its simplicity, and that simplicity guaranteed its repetition on a larger or lesser scale.

Already prediction is verified, anticipation realized. Ireland and America hold simultaneously their national exhibitions, inviting the aid and rivalry of foreign peoples. France is preparing to follow the example of England and her sister peoples. Our information of the New York Exhibition is not yet full enough to enable us to lay before our readers an adequate representation of its merits. Of the contents of the Dublin Crystal Palace, however, and of the structure itself, we have now almost a complete knowledge, of which we shall put our readers in possession next month. For the present, let us be content to contemplate the spectacle of Queen Victoria, with her illustrious husband in her Irish Crystal Palace, and at the residence of William Dargan, her suddenly ennobled Irish subject.

It has been a cause of much dissatisfaction to the Irish people that their capital is not honoured by the periodical presence of the Sovereign. The reign of Queen Victoria promises to dissipate the grievance. Twice has she presented herself to her Celtic subjects; and has, on this latter occasion, received from her visit a kind and degree of pleasure that is the best assurance of its repetition. Her Majesty was not only entertained, but interested. All the sympathies of her intelligent mind and her patriotic heart were drawn forth by the sight of a people struggling manfully to break the chain of ages, and overtake competitors that had far distanced them in the race of civilization. In the abounding evidences of national intellect, ingenuity, energy, and taste that greeted her in every step of the Royal procession through the Dublin Crystal Palace, and were disclosed to her more scrutinizing gaze in her daily private visits, the Queen must have felt proud of that third portion of her citizen subjects who are divided from us but by a narrow strait; and must have formed in her soul the resolution expressed in her reply to the address of the committee—to aid to the best of her power in the development of their hitherto buried talents.

We have spoken of Mr. Dargan as "suddenly ennobled." We should rather have said, "made suddenly illustrious." The creator of the Irish Industrial and Artistic Exhibition—the man who, having risen from the ranks of labour, dispenses princely wealth with more than princely munificence and sagacity—owes his nobility to no one occasion, no lucky accident, no one turn of the wheel of fortune, not even to any one master-stroke of power. The nobility must be in him—circumstances only the pedestal for its display. The staple of Mr. Dargan's character must have been fabricated before ever the foundation of his renown was laid. By successive strokes of the mallet, they were doubtless built up together. The act of generous confidence in his fellow-countrymen by which he has made them and their posterity his debtors is, as the coronet to the brow of native power—the title of knight to the man of renowned valour. The modesty which avoided public recognition at a royal pageant, and the self-respect that declined a titular adornment, were

appropriately recognised by the graceful and courteous visit made to Mount Anneville by the Queen and Prince. It was natural even to so self-contained a man as William Dargan must be, to say, "This is the proudest moment of my life!" But we trust he will live to behold a period in which he shall be prouder, happier yet—that, namely, in which Ireland shall show she has many sons like unto him; that she has trained her young men to follow his example; and that her daughters have reason to bless his name.

#### GEOLOGY AS EXHIBITED IN THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Of all the works of literature, we are generally most delighted with the pictures of past ages painted upon the historic page; and that pleasure is enhanced in proportion to our confidence in their truthfulness. Works of fiction having an historical basis, are more sought after than works of fiction that have no such foundation. Indeed, many who do not approve generally of light reading, will so far overcome their scruples as to peruse and even recommend compositions of that character. So inspired are we all with desire for the knowledge of the events that have transpired in remote time or distance! Some histories, nevertheless, are not to be read in books. Of this class is the history of this world before it became a fit habitation for man.

The remains of animals long since extinct, of vegetables and plants having now no prototype, have been excavated from time to time during the last half century from beneath the earth's surface, and treasured up by pains-taking, determined, energetic, intellectual men, designated paleontologists, who have, by induction, arrived at definite results or truths concerning this world's history when "as yet there was no man."

Rocks of the most primitive antiquity, called Plutonic rocks, have scarcely ever been found to have imbedded in them anything that ever had a life of motion. These rocks are supposed to have been originally furnaces of molten lava, which crystallized as it cooled, at the time, we presume, when, as Scripture says, "the earth was without form and void;" and as Ovid, the old Roman poet, sings, "One face of nature was on the whole orb, chaos; a rough and unformed mass, a sluggish weight; discordant seeds of everything mixed together in the same place" . . . "Its own form was not retained by anything; for all opposed each other, because that which was of a nature cold did fight with heat, moist with dry, soft with hard, ponderable bodies with imponderable." In modern times, we have the additional testimony of boiling water, or thermal springs, appearing at a certain depth from Artesian wells, and by volcanoes, or fire-breathing mountains, that we are, at this present period, but a few miles removed from seas of liquid fire.

This primitive era passed away under the whirlwind and the storm. An almighty decree changed the rude and inert mass to this rounded and pregnant earth. An attempt at the representation of the various conjectured steps in this great transition, is in progress at the Crystal Palace—an undertaking which obviously involves all the resources of art and nature, the deepest research by philosophic students into Nature's hidden truths, the most modern acquisition of information in comparative anatomy, chemistry, and mineralogy, as well as geology.

The ground adjoining the new road from the Rock Hills, Sydenham, to Penge, in which the Artesian well and engine-houses are also placed, is the site now being prepared, in hollow basins, mounds, and upheaved tumuli, for the representatives of the antediluvian world; including,

Monsters inhabiting the land;  
Monsters of the vasty deep; and  
Gigantic amphibious monsters of the old creation;

whose osseous and other remains mark, more indelibly than any book, the secondary fossiliferous era, as well as the tertiary epoch; the climate appertaining to one period of time being annihilated to the inhabitants of another period; and each inhabited by the living creatures to which it was adapted.

"Yet these giant forms tremendous,  
Creatures wondrous, wild, stupendous:  
Huge,—that fancy cannot frame them;  
Wild,—that language may not name them;  
Differing from a world like this,  
Each to all were framed for bliss;  
Form'd to sleep without alloy,  
Each its element of joy,  
By that power that rules to bless,  
All were made for happiness."

A definite account of the amphibia, gigantic saurians, tapirs, and megatheriums, which are now being prepared in the geological department, scarcely less for the astonishment than for the instruction of beholders, will appear in future papers. A slight sketch of the scene as it appeared to the mind's eye of the originator of this extraordinary conception, and the effect produced upon the visitors to it, is all that is now attempted; and that in the hope that it will arouse curiosity to look upon a scene in which wonder itself becomes bewildered, knowing not at what most to be amazed, where all is wonder and astonishment.

Fancy yourselves, then, surrounded by something apparently totally unnatural, yet which once was Nature—rocks, strata, herbage, trees—alltogether unearthly, and the creatures native there more unearthly still. Were it not for the cerulean sky over your heads, you might almost be inclined to cry out with Hela,—

"Farewell to the mountain and sun-lighted vale,  
The moss-bordered streamlet and balm-breathing gale."

Rocks of igneous origin, aqueous or stratified rocks, metamorphic rocks crystallized by heat, as well as those of basalt and porphyry, astonish and perplex the senses; no stunted ferns of modern growth, but fern trees with outspread branches, rising 40 and 50 feet; from the rocks, mosses, grasses, palms; altogether unique, whereon man ne'er looked, but teeming with living creatures terrifically anomalous to us, perfectly fitted to them.

Mark yon Sloth or Megatherium! Contemplate his enormous size; limbs like columns; a huge body cased in scaly armour. A moderate-sized tree would be scarcely a meal for him. Now watch that Plesiosaurus, which unites in one, various distinct modern animals—a wondrous combination of beast and fish, of bird and lizard! Behold! how majestic he looks, with arched and swan-like neck, as if about to glide over the untroubled waters. Then observe the gigantic Megalosaurus, in coat of mail, with huge teeth, or enormous saw-like projections, bristling along his back. See the colossal Iguanodon, with a like appendage of spinal apparatus, apparently feeding upon the mosses around him—a mighty whale on land, measuring from 80 to 100 feet in length, and breadth in proportion! We should be inclined to imagine that he was the undisputed monarch of that age—the greatest amongst the great.

Shell-fish, now extinct; stone lilies, fixed to the rocks like tulips on their stems; the trilobite, a crab-like creature, with prominent eyes; and numberless other strange nondescript inhabitants of the rocks and the watery deep, you must next glance at.

Other periods are now before us—the earliest, or Eocene period, the middle or Miocene period, and the later or Pleiocene

period. Many thousands of years have elapsed. These monstrous reptiles have now degenerated or disappeared; and mammalia, scarcely less anomalous, yet still more nearly approximating to the forms now in existence, usurp their places. Fossil forests, of a species which form a link between the coniferous trees and the ferns and palms of woody structure, yet so silicified as to strike fire with steel; fuci, weeds, and plants, together with zoophytes, crustaceans, shells, amongst which the inceramus, scaphite, hamite, and turritile, it may be imagined, will be prominent; mammalia, birds, and reptiles; the iguana, monitor, crocodile, and turtle, in abundance; the ammonite and the nautilus. The nautilus still exists, and its singular structure navigates the oceans of the tropics; but the ammonite, which once floated on the surface of the waters, alternately sinking or rising, is no longer seen.

"The Nautilus and the Ammonite  
Were launched in friendly strife;  
Each sent to float, in its tiny boat  
On the wide wild sea of life.

"For each could swim on the ocean's brim,  
And when wearied its sails could furl;  
And sink to sleep in the great sea deep,  
Its palace all of pearl.

"And hand in hand, from strand to strand,  
They sailed in mirth and glee;  
These fairy shells, with their crystal cells,  
Twin creatures of the sea.

"And they came at last to a sea long past,  
But as they reached its shore,  
The Almighty's breath spoke out in death,  
And the Ammonite lived no more."

Let us now digress for a moment to observe your visitors, viewing these representations of what once had being. Wonder, mixed with awe, seems their pervading sentiment. Another group are incredulous, and treat it as an Oriental fiction, or as a modern delusion, akin to spirit-rapping. A few are loud in their satire and ridicule; but find no echo. Let us individualize their different idiosyncrasies. One man is a believer in the metempsychosian doctrine. Mark the twinkling eye, the compressed lips: he is contemplating that immense saurian swallowing a gigantic toad, which he fancies once to have been his greatest enemy on earth, and whose departed spirit has migrated into that horrid creature! Another is a philosophic moralizer, and exclaims, "Never till now have I felt the literal force of Shakespeare's adage, 'Sermons in stones'." A third is a poet, whose eye takes in mountains with glacial peaks peeping through rolling clouds; the setting sun tinging the vaults of heaven with gorgeous, golden colours, intermingled with ever-flitting, fanciful shapes of crimson hue, reflecting their resplendence on the jutting rocks; the waters, glittering in sparkling brilliancy; Nature's evening jewellery contrasting with the deep purple shadows on the broad flood and massive rocks—"islands on a dark blue sea."

#### A PARTY AT THE PEOPLE'S PALACE.

To the Editor of the Illustrated Crystal Palace Gazette.

SIR,—During my wanderings in Scotland, Ireland, and on the continent, the Sydenham Crystal Palace has been frequently the subject of conversation, and hearing so many opinions and prophecies, eulogisms and depreciation, concerning it, all coloured so diversely, that thither I determined to go and judge for myself, or, at least, form conclusions from the reiterated judgments of others. So now, after having been located in that vicinity, and domiciled just to my taste in a cottage situated in its own grounds—all the rooms on the ground floor; at the back of the house, a picturesque hill, rising considerably above it, and nearly perpendicular, large clumps of furze skirting the top, and interspersed with

#### SYDENHAM CHURCH.



wild flowers, brambles in abundance climbing up the sides and over uneven projections; lawn, flower-garden, and fruit-trees in front, thoroughly reconciling me to it as a resting-place for a short period, wanderer though I be.

The Palace and grounds have been visited by me continually for the last two months; and whenever I have observed an individual of peculiar characteristics enter the building, my curiosity has been gratified by joining him, and learning his opinion, as well as also, from other visitors, an opportunity offered. You may be sure, sir, that I have, in this "labour of love," collected some "facts," and as your paper purports to be published expressly to describe its "wonders, resources, and delights," these facts never having yet been made public, it appeared to me that their relation would be agreeable to some of your readers, and, perhaps, help to convince those who are sceptical as to the extent of its wonders, &c.

One of the facts thus gathered, is this, that every one has been delighted with what they have seen. That no written history ever gave them so comprehensive an insight into the peculiarities of the nations of the earth as even one comparatively cursory glance at the various "courts" of this Palace had done; and this is the unanimous opinion. All agree that it is now "wonderful," and have no doubt that when completed it will be "marvellous."

Parties of from half a dozen to twenty each visit the palace and works daily, and all have been highly gratified. Twenty pounds, I have been told, has been received from visitors in one day.

The first individual whom I joined, and who, by his dress and appearance, seemed to be a curate, having asked the price of admission, and being informed that it was five shillings, said he could not afford so much; but after pacing thoughtfully backwards and forwards outside the Palace for about an hour, he returned to the entrance-gate, and paid the five shillings for admission. After four hours examination of the works, this gentleman declared that he would not have missed the sight had it been the last five shillings he possessed in the world, for it had infinitely surpassed all his expectations. Another individual was an American—name and address, William L. Smith, Four Fields, Connecticut, U.S. He was a short, wiry, middle-aged man, with faded umbrella and unbrushed coat, and judging by his appearance, you would fancy scarcely worth five shillings; but there was that about him which convinced me he was "wide awake," and of the "go-ahead" school. I was, therefore, well pleased to listen to his ideas, expressed in American phraseology and with rich Yankee humour, mingled with what appeared to me, discriminative judgment and good sense. The vast length, breadth, and height of the building—yet everything so light, delicate, and fairylike, for such an immense area, perfectly astounded him, and

he exclaimed, "I guess the Britisher beats Jonathan anyhow this time. When I return, I calculate our New York Crystal Palace will make me darned dissatisfied." When this is opened, it's "as sartin as preaching" that the Americans will flock over in shoals, and return expressing their astonishment and delight, without any of that droll exaggeration which has been for some time in vogue across the Atlantic. The spiral staircase had evidently quite "spiraled" him. The diminishing of the galleries in the distance, like dissolving views, were a perfect botheration to him, and the view of the surrounding country seemed so peaceful that it excited his imagination to gambol away from terraqueous scenes to spirit land; whilst the cheerfulness of the prospect uplifted his thoughts to realms of immortal freshness and beauty; nor was it until he came amongst the statues and figures that they returned to their native sphere.

The various "courts," especially the Egyptian, vastly amused him. We then crossed the grounds, and went to see the antediluvian monsters. The model of an elk with natural antlers he artistically criticised, and after admiring it much, said it had but one fault—it did not actually breathe. On observing on the tablet the name of Hawkins, another of God's scintillating stars of genius, he exclaimed, "Truly, with so much intellect, and talent, and skill, the 'People's Palace' at Sydenham must become the wonder and admiration of the world."

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,  
A SOJOURNER.

Rock Hills, September, 1853.

FRAUD UNDER PRETENCE OF ASSISTING THE CRYSTAL PALACE SUFFERERS.—A few days since, R. Gilgrove, a young man of gentlemanlike appearance, was placed at the bar before Mr. D'Eynon, charged with having obtained a sum of money under pretence that he was authorized to collect subscriptions for the benefit of the sufferers from the late serious accident at the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham. Mr. James Slater, a clothier, in the City-road, stated that in the afternoon of Monday last, the prisoner entered his shop and handed him a written paper, in the form of a pamphlet, which contained an urgent appeal to the sympathies of the public on behalf of the widows and orphans of the men who had lost their lives through the recent accident at the Crystal Palace. At the time he presented the petition the prisoner introduced himself as a medical student, attached to St. Bartholomew's hospital, and stated that he was acting under the direct sanction of the authorities of that institution, by whom he had been deputed, together with seven of his colleagues, to solicit subscriptions in different parts of the Metropolis for the relief of the unfortunate sufferers. On reading the paper, which purported to be prepared and signed by "S. E. Miller," who was described as governor and treasurer of St. Bartholomew's hospital, witness presented him with a small donation to which his foreman also added a subscription, and the prisoner left the shop, after writing down their names at the bottom a lengthened list of subscribers, which were appended to the document.—Mr. Thomas Hall, a naturalist in the City-road, stated that on Monday evening the prisoner called at his place of business, and produced a letter to the same purport as had been referred to by the last witness, but which bore the signature "Doctor Thomas Hall, M. D., St. Bartholomew's hospital." After perusing the letter, the faulty construction and orthographical errors in which rendered it perfectly manifest that it could not have been written by an educated person, witness intimated to the prisoner that he believed him to be an impostor, and that the document was a pure fabrication. The prisoner indignantly repelled the accusation, declaring that he was a student connected with the hospital, and that he was in a condition to refer him to numerous distinguished professional gentlemen, who would satisfy him as to his respectability; and amongst others mentioned the name of Dr. Gouffre, of Eaton-street, Eaton-square, whom he described as his private tutor. Witness, however, suggested that instead of troubling any of those gentlemen, they had better proceed together in a cab to St. Bartholomew's hospital, where he would be able at once to verify his statement that it was a genuine document, but the prisoner declined to adopt that course, and hastily quitted the place. Mr. John Roberts, tobacco manufacturer in the Whitechapel-road, gave similar evidence, and it was proved that two documents found upon the prisoner were fabrications, and that he was not at all known at the hospital.—The prisoner declined offering any defence, and was remanded for a week.

## SYDENHAM AND ITS WANT OF DRAINAGE.

To the Editor of the Illustrated Crystal Palace Gazette.

SIR.—The great amount of discussion which this subject has evolved during the last twelve months, and the attention which has been directed towards it by the inhabitants of Sydenham, renders any apology for again bringing it under their notice unnecessary.

My object in writing is to review the past, and explain the plans laid down for the future.

On the 4th September, 1848, an act of the 11th and 12th Vict. was passed, entitled, "An Act to consolidate and continue in force for two years and to the end of the then next session of Parliament the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers," under by virtue of which the Commissioners of Sewers formed a district called the "Ravensbourne," and in this district Sydenham was included.

About the month of June, 1849, operations were commenced here. It was understood that a plan of drainage had been agreed on, the Poole river being taken as the outlet. This river, it will be remembered, runs into the Ravensbourne. Now the Kent Waterworks Company draw large supplies from the latter river, and when the intentions of the Commissioners became known, they remonstrated against the pollutions of the water. The matter, after some correspondence, was accommodated by the company paying the Commissioners a sum of £5,000, the latter gentlemen entering into a bond not to drain into the Poole. This was all very well; but, surely, if the Commissioners sell one outlet they ought to provide another. They, however, did no such thing, and actually proceeded to lay down drain-pipes in one or two of the leading thoroughfares, though they knew that no outlet existed.

At length the work was finished (?), and the inhabitants, who had patiently borne the vast inconveniences to which they had been subjected by excavations, in the expectation of some great improvement, were shortly afterwards startled by the announcement that they could not drain into the pipes! It should be mentioned that the Commissioners had at this time either destroyed or taken possession of the old parish drains. All hope was, therefore, cut off from that quarter. "What are we to do?" asked the inhabitants. "Construct watertight cesspools," responded the Commissioners. So that, in fact, after all the inconvenience and expense, matters were far worse than ever.

I need not say that a sewers'-rate was paid with a very bad grace. It was only paid, indeed, upon a promise of speedy improvement.

Time passed by, but no improvement took place. At length another rate was made and demanded. The ratepayers demurred—some refused payment, and the Commissioners have gone to the extent of distraining and selling their goods. For what? Ah, "there's the rub." It was to ascertain this that on the 8th of March last a public meeting was held at the Bricklayers' Arms, Upper Sydenham. At that meeting a mass of evidence, so voluminous and overwhelming, was adduced against the Commissioners, that it was thought impossible for these gentlemen longer to remain inactive. A resolution was passed that they should be memorialized; and so they were.

On the 7th of June last, a deputation from Sydenham was introduced to the office in Greek-street, and there it was that the truth came out. The Commissioners had no funds. They were in debt; they could do nothing; they admitted they were powerless for good, and the only hope held out to the deputation was that if this and other districts would persuade Government to put them in possession of funds, something should be done.

A bill was then in course of preparation to effect this, and the inhabitants of Sydenham, finding that this was their only hope, set about adopting (with certain modifications) the suggestions then thrown out.

The measure was, at length, before the House. The Home Secretary asked for

£500,000, and ultimately £300,000 was granted.

During the passage of the bill through the House, Lord Palmerston, referring to the complaints which had emanated from various districts, invited the parties complaining to meet him at the Home Office, in the presence of the Commissioners, and if the requirements then moved were approved by the engineers retained on behalf of the Government (for the Commissioners are no longer the controlling power) they should be carried out.

This then is an epitome of the past.

Let us now turn to the future. There cannot be two opinions as to the propriety of accepting the Home Secretary's invitation on behalf of Sydenham.

A memorial to Lord Palmerston has been prepared and is now in course of signature. An elaborate plan of the proposed drainage will shortly be completed and ready for inspection. I should mention here that we are mainly indebted for this to Mr. W. B. Moffatt, the architect (late Scott and Moffatt, of Spring-gardens), who has had the entire laying out of all the stands round the Crystal Palace, as well as other large estates for building purposes in the immediate neighbourhood, whose connexion with the Crystal Palace will ensure us a most successful sewage arrangement, and to whom the public are also entirely indebted for all the late improvements in drainage matters.

This done, a deputation will attend at the Home Office, and it is to be hoped that the influential inhabitants of Sydenham will cheerfully come forward as members of it.

Without great assistance, it is utterly impossible to carry out efficiently and satisfactorily a task of such magnitude as that which is now undertaken; and really it is necessary that gentlemen who are residents of Sydenham should use every exertion to bring about a better state of things. Tradesmen, by whom, with a few praiseworthy exceptions, the agitation has been carried on, look to them with great confidence for that support and co-operation which it is certainly in their power to accord.

If in commencing this letter I considered an apology unnecessary, I cannot say at its close that one is not due to you for the almost unwarrantable length to which it has extended. Did I not know how much interest many of your readers take in the locality, I should feel ashamed in encroaching so far on your space. As it is, I can only, on behalf of the committee, thank you for the insertion, and subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

A SYDENHAM SUFFERER.

Sydenham, September, 1853.

**NEW DECIMAL COINAGE.**—The employés at the Royal Mint have been actively employed in striking off the new decimal silver coinage, which will be issued at the commencement of 1854, the die bearing that date. Sovereigns, half-sovereigns, and florins, will remain without alteration.

**GRAND TEMPERANCE FÊTE.**—On Monday, September 12, a temperance fête was held at the Surrey Zoological Gardens by the London Temperance League. They mustered in Lincoln's-inn-fields, where they were joined by several teetotal societies from various districts. The procession was completed by carriages, in which were Mr. and Mrs. Gough, Mr. James Silk Buckingham, the President of the London Temperance League, with the committee and officers. Mr. Gough, the eloquent American lecturer for the promotion of temperate habits, addressed the willing auditors, who heartily applauded him. The large assembly seemed highly gratified.

**TERRA-COTTA STATUE AT SYDENHAM.**—The terra-cotta statue of "Australia," designed and modelled by Mr. Bell—moulded, pressed, and fired by Mr. Blashfield—is now placed in the gardens of the Crystal Palace. A plaster mould was made from the model, into which a terra-cotta body, composed of Devon and Dorset clay, ground flint, glass, &c., was pressed, at about the consistency of painter's putty. After the clay, &c., was dry enough to remove the mould, the statue was finished by an artist, the final touches being given by Mr. Bell. The statue was then placed in a situation where it could dry slowly, and, when sufficiently dry, it was removed into a reverberatory kiln, upon which it was afterwards fired. The heat attained was that at which glass will melt. The firing occupied three weeks. It is, probably, the largest piece of pottery ever fired in an entire piece, the statue, including the plinth, being 8 feet 6 inches in height, and weighed, after burning, about 25 cwt.

## THE QUEEN AT THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

This event is deserving of more extended description than furnished by our "Friendly Correspondent." The scene must have been an imposing and brilliant one, even to those who recollect the greater glory of May 1, 1851. Now, as then, a principal element of gaiety was the immense assemblage of fair and well-dressed spectators. Gallantly everywhere conceded the first rank to the ladies; and they, besides thus forming a "flowered verge" to the central hall, festooned by their abundant greenery, every pillar, group of statuary, and industrial trophy. The members of the committee received her Majesty as she alighted, and conducted her, once to a small and prettily-furnished apartment adjoining the main entrance. Thence, after a moment's pause and protracted by them, she entered the central hall. From gallery and floor areas at once the most hearty cheers, which accompanied by the music of the National Anthem and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, were prolonged as she advanced to the upper end of the hall. Prince Albert and the young Princess accompanied her Majesty, who was attended by the Duchess of Wellington, leaning on the arm of the Lord-Lieutenant, and the Countess St. Germans on that of Earl Granville. The committee, who, headed by their chairman, George Ross, led the way, having reached the foot of the raised dais on which the throne had been placed, formed a semicircle at its base—while the Queen and the other members of the Royal family, ascending the steps, took their places, her Majesty in the centre, with the Prince of Wales on her right hand, and Prince Albert and Prince Arthur on her left. The spectacle which the hall now presented was singularly imposing; in front, the vast assemblage standing up, and cheering loudly—behind, the Court, in an attitude of respectful attendance; and beyond them, on the verge of the platform, a semicircle of the Irish nobility. The Queen appeared touched by the scene. His Royal Highness Prince Albert seemed also affected, and both gazed earnestly for some minutes over the great area of the hall, to the aspect of which the enthusiasm of loyalty added an indescribable charm. The deep silence of expectation followed as, at a signal from the Lord Chamberlain, the committee drew near, and their chairman read an address.

In the address to Prince Albert mention was specifically made of Mr. Dargan's merits, and his Royal Highness' attention was particularly drawn to a peculiarity of the present exhibition:—

We feel bound to attribute to an honoured and enterprising individual the merit of having enabled this committee to co-operate with the Royal Dublin Society in giving a character of more than usual prominence to their triennial exhibition of manufactures, which was to be held this year, and of having erected this Temple of Industry, which her Majesty and your Royal Highness now grace by your presence.

On the previous occasion of exhibitions it is unnecessary to dilate on the presence of your Royal Highness, who has so advantageously publicised their utility; but we may be allowed to direct your attention to a distinguishing peculiarity of the Exhibition of 1853, which extends the principle laid down by the Royal Commission of 1851, so as to include painting, the highest order of the arts, and also examples of the industrial and artistic products of by-gone ages, whereby their progressive advance can be traced from the earliest times to the present.

The tribute paid to Dargan's "patriotic munificence," not only by the Prince, but by the Queen, will probably induce some curiosity as to the share which he was taking in these proceedings. Once or twice, before her Majesty arrived, he was seen moving about in the vacant space reserved for her reception, and instantly a kindly cheer arose from all parts of the building. Then he disappeared and attracted no notice until after the Prince's reply, when the Lord Chamberlain beckoned him forward to the foot of the throne. He emerged from the most retired position in the whole circle of committeemen, and kneeling down, kissed the Queen's hand, at which the assembly testified their pleasure by a loud and enthusiastic cheer.

After these presentations a procession was formed, in which the committee and chief officials of the exhibition took the lead, and the Lord Mayor and Corporation followed; then came the Queen and Prince Albert, the two young Princes, the Royal suite, the Lord-Lieutenant, Lady St. Germans, and the principal members of the Viceregal household. The procession was not one of strict state and ceremony, for the Lord-Chamberlain walked like ordinary human beings instead of as usual, and her Majesty, instead of a crown, wore "a very pretty pink bonnet." Leaving the centre of the building, the Royal visitors first passed through the north hall, where the hardware, the textile fabrics, and the manufactures from mineral substances are chiefly located—the portion of the building which makes the least show, but probably has the most intrinsic merit and practical interest. From the north hall the procession, passing by the ancient crosses fixed at the chief entrance, moved slowly through the foreign compartments on the south side, and thence into the picture gallery, which had been kept perfectly clear of spectators in order that her Majesty might enjoy uninterruptedly the first impressions produced by an unrivalled collection of paintings admirably displayed.

Recrossing the picture gallery, the Royal party were conducted across the Indian compartment, and resumed their former positions on the raised dais. In awful pomp the civic dignitaries of Dublin now approached the throne. As they ascended the steps of the platform all the weight and responsibility of office fluttered in their scarlet robes, and beat itself in their dutiful obeisances. With an imposing rattle, the City Marshal deposited his ponderous keys at the foot of the Sovereign, and the macebearer similarly resigned

his badge of authority. Not content with standing at the modest distance of the committee, the aldermen and corporation drew so near the throne as to block out all view of what took place from the majority of the spectators. The address, read by the Recorder, and presented by the Lord Mayor, concluded with an emphatic declaration of loyalty and attachment. The address to Prince Albert paid him the sonorous compliment, "To you belongs the grand idea of arousing the intelligence of the world in a generous competition to promote the arts of industry and peace"—to which the Prince modestly replied.

The ceremonial of the Royal visit was now over, and, having stood for a minute to take a last look at the brilliant spectacle before her, the Queen gave the signal to depart. Amid loud and enthusiastic cheers she was conducted down the central hall to the entrance, whence she proceeded at once to the Viceregal Lodge—the music of the National Anthem accompanying her exit, as it had announced her arrival.

On the afternoon of the same day, the Queen and Prince Albert visited Mr. and Mrs. Dargan. The manner of her Majesty was exceedingly courteous. Mrs. Dargan having been presented was warmly received. The Royal party were, after a time, conducted through the splendid mansion to the lofty tower adjoining, from which they obtained views of Kingston Harbour and the Wicklow mountains, Howth, and the Bay of Dublin, the city and the luxuriant valley of the Liffey. Her Majesty and his Royal Highness expressed their warmest admiration of the scenery. After a visit of more than half-an-hour's duration, the party prepared to return; and while the carriages were being brought round, the Queen and Prince Albert again entered into familiar conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Dargan.

Prince Albert, on the same day, showed his usual interest in efforts for the improvement of the people, by visiting the baths and washhouses on Usher's Quay, and the model lodging-house in Marlborough-street.

On the remaining days of the week, the Queen and Prince, with their children, privately visited the Exhibitions at an early hour, remaining till some time after the admission of the public. A business-like tribute was paid to the self-supporting character of the Exhibition by the purchase of ten season tickets for the use of the Royal visitors.

#### CHOLERA.

An authoritative intimation that cholera is even now amongst us has been made. The *London Gazette* of Friday last contained an "Order in Council" enforcing the provisions of the act for the prevention of contagious and epidemic diseases. This act passed on the 4th Sept., 1848, and is entitled, "An Act to renew and amend an act of the tenth year of her present Majesty, for the more speedy removal of certain nuisances, and the prevention of contagious and epidemic diseases," and empowers the Privy Council to issue orders for putting in force the provisions relative to contagious and epidemic diseases. The order having issued for Great Britain for the next six months, the General Board of Health may provide for the frequent and effectual cleansing of streets and public ways; for the ventilating and disinfecting of dwellings; for the removal of nuisances, and the speedy interment of the dead; and generally for preventing or mitigating such epidemic in such manner as to the Board may seem expedient. Medicines may be dispensed and medical aid provided. Houses can be inspected in the day time, and anything injurious to health removed. The expenses are to be paid out of the poor's-rate. There are various provisions to enforce the act, and penalties are to be levied and recovered for obstructing its execution. All orders and regulations are to be laid before Parliament and gazetted.

The Holborn Board of Guardians, finding that the provisions of this act are inadequate to suppress all the nuisances brought under their notice, have applied to the Poor-law Board for direction, and received the following reply, signed "Courtney, secretary":—

I am directed to state, that the Board have had the subject of the representations made to them under their consideration; and are of opinion that the guardians have no power or authority which will enable them to remedy the evils referred to, except as arising under the statutes of the 1st Victoria, c. 71, s. 41, or the Nuisances Removal Acts, 11th and 12th Victoria, c. 133, and 12th and 13th Victoria, c. 14. The first of these statutes gives a remedy against the occupiers of any house which is duly certified to be in a filthy and unwholesome condition that the health of the immediate neighbourhood is thereby affected or endangered; but in cases where the occupiers of the premises are very poor, the remedy would probably be of little avail to the guardians. If, however, complaints are made to the guardians by two or more householders, or certificates laid before them by the medical or relieving-officers as to the filthy and unwholesome condition of the premises, in conformity with the provisions of the two latter statutes, which admit of proceedings being taken against the owners as well as the occupiers, the Board see no reason why a remedy may not be obtained, so far as to place the premises in a good state, by abating the nuisances referred to.

The epidemic is still confined, except in individual cases, to Newcastle, Gateshead, and the neighbourhood. But for the great activity that has been shown by the local authorities in providing extra medical aid, it is believed that its progress would have been much more rapid, as a very large amount of diarrhoea is discovered and arrested by the house to house visitation of the medical inspectors. Handbills are largely circulated, pointing out the great danger of neglecting looseness

of the bowels while the epidemic influence is present; but, notwithstanding all efforts of the authorities and the medical visitors, many cases occur in which diarrhoea is allowed to pass unchecked into developed cholera. At least 15,000 families in the town are destitute of water-closets or privies, and father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister, perform generally in the same room the ordinary functions of nature; and that this is cast into the streets, so that entire districts are converted into gigantic cesspools.

A very important step has been taken by order of the Board of Health. It had been found that in a part of Newcastle, called Sandgate, 4,000 people are living in a state of such filth, overcrowding, and absolute want of the commonest conveniences for either decency or cleanliness, that the only hope of effectually checking the progress of the epidemic among them was to remove them from the locality. Acting on the experience of 1849, when in the small town of Mevagissey, in Cornwall, where the habitations of the poor are closely packed, and where the whole site is described as one mass of filth, which could not be removed in time to avert the most disastrous consequences, the inspector advised the immediate removal of the population, and the Board of Ordnance granted the use of tents, in which 360 of the population were accommodated, and amongst them not a single case of cholera occurred, while 126 additional cases took place among the population which remained in the houses,—acting on this experience, application has been made to the War Office and the Board of Ordnance. The latter Board promptly sent an order for the immediate despatch of 200 tents, and the former office promise the aid and co-operation of an experienced officer. On Monday morning the tents were erected on the town Moor, and the removal of the population commenced.

At Shields, only one case of indubitable cholera—that of a little boy—is reported. At Gateshead, it is hoped the epidemic has exhausted its virulence. At Edinburgh, one case of cholera has been reported, but not certified.

Three cases of supposed Asiatic cholera have occurred in York-court, Earl-street, Marylebone, in an Irish lodging-house. In only one case the attack proved fatal. A medical gentleman reports that the cases were "sporadic," not Asiatic cholera, but perhaps nearly so.—"Nor is it necessary to go to Asia for causes sufficient to produce such terrible results, when in our own streets there exist causes of disease as intense as can be fostered in the jungles or the Black Hole of Calcutta."

Dr. Evans, who attended John Hickie, the Southwark victim of Asiatic cholera, states that, when called to the deceased, who was a man of strong muscular development, in height about six feet two inches, he found him suffering from all the symptoms of Asiatic cholera in its most virulent form. *He immediately placed him under the influence of chloroform.*

The terrible agony of the dying giant subsided into the calm and painless sleep of an infant. For the space of an hour not a spasm or evanescent movement of the body took place, and himself better and entered into conversation with those around him. It appears to me, the effects resulting from this powerful agent are various and beneficial. Relatives are spared witnessing the painful contortions of the afflicted, and, by its inhalation, a new principle is introduced into the blood. The spasm, vomiting, and purging, are allayed, the medicines given before its exhibition have time to become absorbed, which the constant vomiting would necessarily preclude. I do not consider that the specific cholera poison destroys the patient, but the consequent exhaustion. The fluid parts of the body are withdrawn by the violent purging, so long as the blood becomes viscid, even to the consistence of treacle; deficient circulation is, of course, the result, with a corresponding depression of the nervous system. Now, if, by the moderate use of chloroform, these fatal symptoms can be warded off for one hour, why not persist for a much longer period in its administration, so as to give the patient time to rally.

**MODEL OF THE NEW CRYSTAL PALACE.**—We were invited the other day to inspect a model of the New Crystal Palace, made by a mechanician named Trumble, of Vere-street, Clare-market. Its length is about fifty-four inches, and its height and depth about twelve inches each way. We understand that the ingenious maker intends to send it to the Sydenham Palace, unless previously disposed of. The price is £5. It is made of cardboard, appropriately coloured, and filled with some hundreds of miniature objects, illustrative of nature and art. Every part of the building is perfect, and it would form a very elegant table ornament for some philanthropic patron of ingenuity and industry.

Several statues of British Sovereigns, in stone, have been just set up in the Centre Hall of the New Houses of Parliament. The Sovereigns represented are Henry II.; Edward I., and his Queen, Eleanor; Eleanor, Queen of Henry III.; Isabella, Queen of Edward II.; Edward III., and His Queen Philippa; Richard II.; and Henry IV. Several other statues of royal personages are nearly completed, and will shortly be placed in the recesses prepared for them.

Mr. Crookshank, of Beverley, the well-known maker of agricultural implements, won the gold medal for Bell's reaping-machine at the annual show of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society. He has presented the medal to the Rev. Patrick Bell, the Scotch minister, whom he describes as "the only original inventor of a machine so well calculated to prove an inestimable benefit to the producers and consumers of bread in all parts of the world."

#### MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, AT HULL.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science has many points in common with the Crystal Palace; and it has one notable point of difference. They agree in being organized for the promotion and diffusion of power—for knowledge is power. But the Crystal Palace, in its lofty and commanding situation, must be visited by those who would know it; whereas, the British Association is essentially locomotive—and a locomotive engine (we now say) of tried value and power. We may say this now. We may fairly and legitimately call it a tried and approved machine. It has stood for twenty-three years, and works as well as or better than ever. It shows no signs of decrepitude or disorganization, but, on the contrary, many signs of natural vigour. It grows; and it grows without having been forced—it grows in spite of having been sneered at, laughed at, written at—in spite of *Punch*, who has been jocular, and the *Times*, that has been indignant about it.

The plan of it is, that, once a year, men interested in the pursuit and diffusion of science should meet at one of the larger British towns, and hold meetings for the sake of publishing new, discussing doubtful, and applying old, discoveries. Its division is in sections—one for mathematics, a second for the natural history sciences, a third for chemistry, a fourth for geography and ethnology, a fifth for statistics, a sixth for geology, and a seventh for mechanics—each working under its own president, in its own allotted rooms, with its own committee, and before its own audience—male and female, lay or clerical, learned or unlearned, as the case may be. And they work well as aforesaid. One of the best things they do is the excitement of attention to local facts; and this makes the character of the locality where they meet tell upon these sections. Thus, in Manchester, the mechanical department comes out strong; the geographical in Swansea; the physiological in Edinburgh, and so on. Hull has been strong in the natural and commercial history of the Humber, upon the effects of the sea upon the west coast of Yorkshire, and on several such matters—matters of which the wise men of London know something, and the wise men of Yorkshire more.

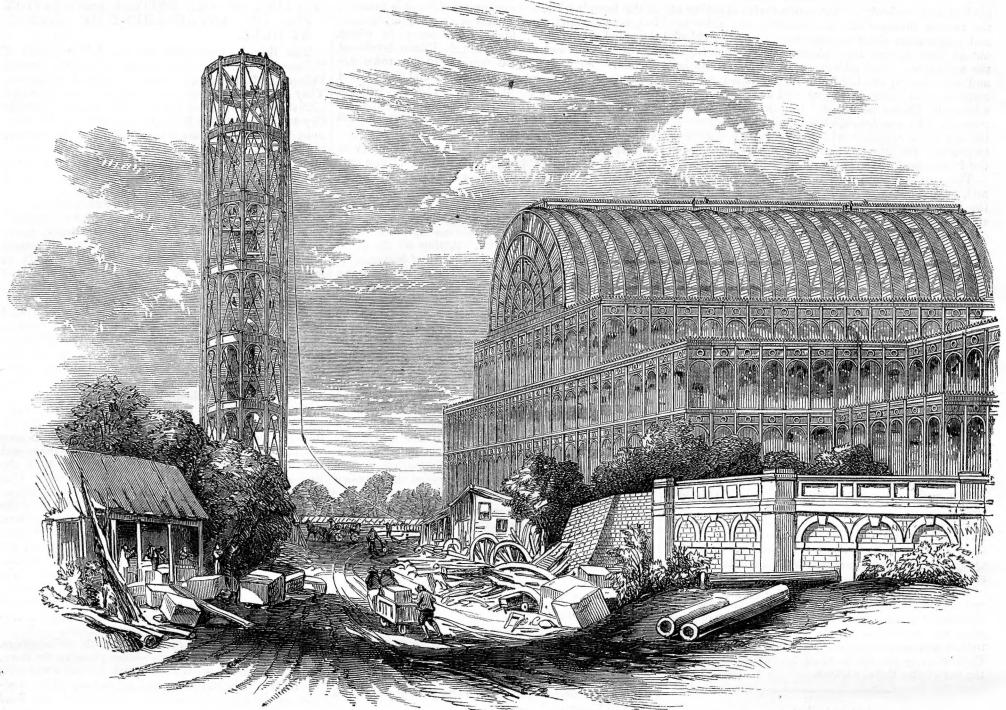
This is the action of the town upon the philosophers. Then comes the action of the philosophers on the town. Wise men never show themselves in vain; and wise words never fail to the ground untriflal. The existence of the Crystal Palace has stimulated the local genius of Sydenham. The meeting of the British Association has not been lost on Hull. So they say there; and so those who saw them believe. All the better. This is another use of the Association.

All this is popular. So are (or ought to be) all good things. Sulky, solitary thought, reclusive speculation, bottomless profoundities of learning,—we speak of these things with respect, but we say of them, that their time has gone by for being exhibited on a large scale, and to the exclusion of the more practical forms of information. These have gone by like painted epic poems, like the romantic drama, like Pindaric odes, because their day has gone by. The exception must become more and more the rule, the average millions must think more and more like the great units—and the institutions we have mentioned in the present notice must promote the change.

As to the Hull meeting itself, it realized, and exceeded, expectation; not so much, however, because it was a first-rate meeting, but because reasonable men formed reasonable hopes. The town is quiet and unambitious—not over much before the industrial world, like Manchester; nor yet in the position of continual literary prominence, like the Universities. Still, its working men were numerous and active, and its institutions were solvent—a great thing now-a-days. But the really valuable part of the meeting was its friendly, comfortable character. There were no crack papers—no brilliant discoveries—no new scientific lions. There was also a deficiency of some of the usual magnates. Nevertheless, the papers were useful, and if the town was as well pleased with the meeting as the meeting seemed to be with the town, no *reunion* has been more successful than the Hull one.

Up to this point the writer expects to be believed. But in what he will next advise he can scarcely be so sanguine as to hope for success. The hospitality of the private houses seemed to have extended itself to the hotels. Full as the fact of the universal uproar about the publican exorbitancy, a traveller can be found who at one and the same time, disinterested and experienced, and who proclaims that he has paid a Hull bill (Victoria hotel), that he is sure it is moderate, and that he *thinks* it could be advantageously imitated elsewhere. He has not the details, but the bed was eighteen-pence, and the board in proportion.

**HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE.**—A great variety of plants and roots have arrived from Mrs. Loddiges, at Hackney, consisting of upwards of 2,000 camellias, of every description of colour—white, red, rose, and white. (Prince Albert), crimson, &c.; and intended to be managed so as to be induced to flower nearly every month in the year. They are already arranged, for the winter, at the Norwood end of the building. One tree must be mentioned, it being so fine a specimen, more than twenty feet high: the others vary from three feet and upwards. Besides these, there are two splendid pine trees, as well as several smaller ones, of the Norfolk Island species; roots of the elephant's-foot plant, and the Kafir bread-tree; and several thousands of geraniums, planted in the open air, comprising the Mexicanum, Lancastriense sanguineum, rubrifolium, &c.



PROGRESS OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE WORKS.—(SEE PAGE 8.)

## A TRIP TO THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF ALL NATIONS.

(From the Journal of a Friendly Correspondent.)

"May the sons of the Thames, the Tweed, and the Shannon,  
Drab the foat that dare plant on their confines a can-  
non;  
United and happy at Loyalty's shrine,  
May the Rose and the Thistle long flourish and twine,  
Round the sprig of shillalah and shamrock so green."

AVAILING ourselves of one of Marcus's cheap excursion trains to Holyhead, and from thence by sea to Dublin, a trio of us "half men of Kent" left the terminus at Euston-square at mid-day last Wednesday week; and, barring the tiresome stoppages at every station, our journey down to the fine old city of Chester was pleasant enough; and, our most gracious Queen having preceded us only a short time, the various stations were gaily decked out with the choicest flowers of the season, and insignias of loyalty, especially at Tamworth. The following morning we resumed our journey, and reached Holyhead at noon, after witnessing the charming scenery of North Wales, and passing through that stupendous wonder of the age, the Britannia Tubular Bridge. In the evening we embarked for Kingston, and five hours afterwards we were comfortably landed in *old* Ireland, and found our way immediately by rail (for sixpence each) to our old favourite hotel, through streets still illuminated in honour of the Queen's visit, and where we were *decidedly done* for on the most reasonable terms, considering the great excitement which prevailed throughout the city at the time. Beds, 2s. each; breakfast, 1s. 6d.; dinner, &c., 2s. 6d., including both spirits and porter.

About 10 a.m. the next morning, we set out for Merrion-square, where the Great Exhibition and grand object of our visit is situated; but just as we came to the principal entrance, an official notice was placed there to intimate that in consequence of her Majesty and suite being in the interior at the time the public would not be admitted till twelve o'clock. At that hour the doors were thrown open, and we were, after all, admitted some time before the Queen had concluded her inspection of the various sections. The building is admirably constructed, and though it is only a third of the size, we suppose of the great original in Hyde Park, still we were on the whole, about as well satisfied with the contents of the one as of the other, and more particularly with the Fine Arts department of the Dublin Exhibition; for in this they greatly excel, having a gallery of paintings, "rich and rare," from some of the choicest collections in Europe. And, as a proof of this, there are at least 140 names of the old masters, alphabetically arranged, in an extra catalogue, with a brief but interesting biography of each artist, including Artois, Backhuysen, Bergheem, Borgognone, Buonarroti, Canaletto, Carracci, Caravaggio, Coreggio, Cuyp, Dome-

nichino, Dolci, Decker, Douver, Durer, Eyck, Eckhout, Ferrani, Fuseli, Guido, Guercino, Goyen, Holbein, Holben, Lauri, Leyden, Maratti, Mola, Murillo, Ostadé, Parmigianino, Perugino, Paul Potter, Poussin, Raffaelle, Rembrandt, Romano, Rosa, Rubens, Sarto, Snyder, Spagnoletti, Teniers, Telburg, Tintoretto, Titian, Tivoli, Vandycy, Vandervelde, Vanloo, Velasquez, Vernet, Watteau, Wouwermans, Wykersloot, Zuccarelli, Zurbaran, and many others, English as well as foreign—forming altogether one of the most valuable and pleasing displays of pictorial art we have examined for many years.

As to the multifarious and pleasing variety of articles (filling a large folio catalogue of 216 pages) we must not attempt to describe at present, and would, by all means, advise our friends to go and judge for themselves, during the five or six weeks the collection remains open for inspection. Our friend Marcus still offers to book tourists from London to Dublin, and "back again" for the moderate charge of thirty shillings! allowing you fourteen or nineteen days to accomplish a journey which, ten years ago, would have cost just three times the sum. But not to be too prosy, take the following compliment of one of our party to one of Erin's fairest daughters, and though no attempt, certainly, at the sublime, it is not altogether, we believe, without sincerity!—

"I gave a lovely Irish nymph  
Some ribbons, white and blue,  
Because it was her natal day,  
And just sweet twenty-two.

"Oh, were I but her favourite swain,  
And she would go with me,  
To dwell in England—happy land,  
The land of liberty!"

"Her shape is handsome, and her smile  
Is worth Victoria's crown;  
And so discreet—yea, what more,  
She's never seen to frown.

"May He who rules the sea and sky  
(By whom the tempest's staid)  
Watch o'er sweet Mary, queen of hearts,  
The darling Irish maid!"

Our most gracious Majesty, ever anxious to foster British art, has been pleased to purchase the original drawings, made by R. W. Carmichael, Esq., of the late review of the ships of war off the Isle of Wight, two of which appeared in a recent number of the *Illustrated London News*.

Sydenham, Sept. 13. RABNUD.

Mr. Blewitt, the popular composer and singer of English songs, has lately died, leaving a widow and family unprovided for.

Some time this month a better description of cabs and omnibuses are to be brought out under the new law, and to be subjected to the inspection from time to time of the Police Commissioners.

The Queen has presented £500 to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, for distribution among the charities of that city.

"CHEAPER THAN EVER?"—Two noted pugilists had a "mill" for £200. When the decimal coinage is established, they will be able to have no less than "five mils" for a penny.—*Digernes*.

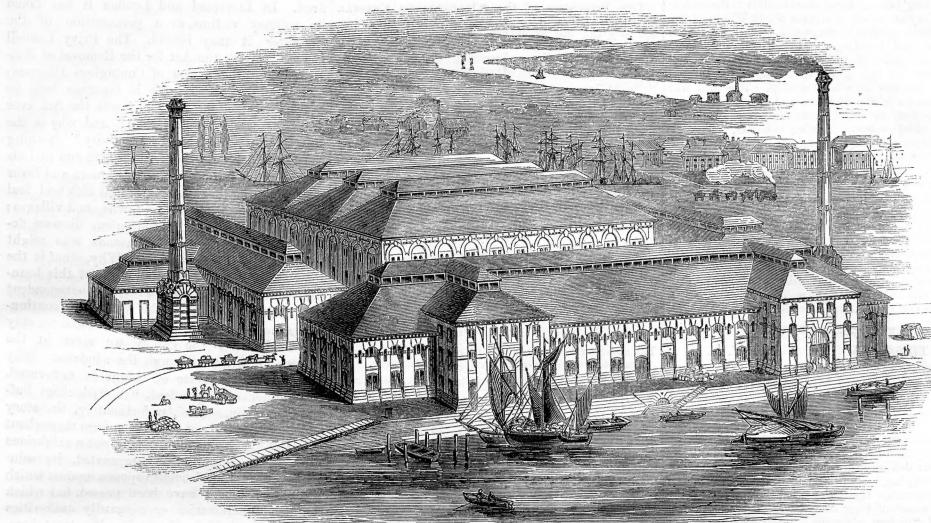
A scheme has lately been projected for printing and circulating a million copies of the New Testament in the Chinese language. The work is now completed, and a Chinese New Testament can be printed and sold for fourpence.

**NEW CHURCH AT FOREST-HILL.**—On Sunday, September 18th, three sermons were preached at Bartholomew Church, Upper Sydenham, in aid of the funds for erecting a place of worship at Forest-hill for the special benefit of the poor as well as the opulent in that locality; that in the morning by the Rev. Mr. Clark, of Lewisham, those in the afternoon and evening by the Rev. Mr. English. At the latter we were fortunate enough to be present, with the two or three (figuratively speaking)—and truly there was a miserable "account of empty benches"—pews, we should say—and we fear the collection was anything but satisfactory; but a more eloquent or appropriate discourse we have seldom listened to, the rev. gentleman choosing for his text a portion of the First Book of Chronicles, wherein "David, the sweet singer of Israel," gives instructions to his son Solomon to build a house to his God worthy of the King of kings. We trust the sermon alluded to, will, ere long, be published for the edification of the public generally in this district.—[The collections, we are informed, amounted, altogether, to sixty-three pounds.—Ed.]

**BOWLING CLUB, — SYDENHAM ANNIVERSARY DINNER.**—On Thursday, September 22, the tenth anniversary dinner of the members of the Bowling Club took place at the Greyhound Hotel, where a sumptuous entertainment was prepared for the occasion by the respected host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Ridgeway, calculated to satisfy the taste of the most fastidious alderman or *gourmand* in the city of London. Mr. Dale, of Lower Sydenham, discharged the duties of chairman most efficiently. The health of her Majesty was given and most heartily responded to. Mr. Clewlow, of Upper Sydenham, filled the vice-chair satisfactorily, and, after choice wines of the right sort had been freely circulated, the majority of the company refrained for an hour's recreation at their favourite games, and afterwards spent the evening most congenially, and parted

"With hearts neither sorry nor sore,  
Resolved the next year to drink one bottle more."

As admirers of the fine arts, we ought not to omit mentioning that the spacious dining-room was tastefully decorated with a masterly portrait of her Majesty, Queen Victoria, as she appeared on horseback at the Grand review at Chobham—a clever interior sketch of the New Palace at Sydenham—an oil painting by Hodges—and an original head of "the oldest man in Kent."



WESTRUP'S PATENT CONICAL FLOUR MILL, NORTH WOOLWICH.

With wheat approaching 60s. per quarter, every mode of lessening the cost of its manufacture should be rendered available, and therefore it is that we direct especial attention to this newly-constructed corn-mill; one most important feature of which is, that it will save from forty to fifty per cent. in the expense of grinding. Without apology, then, we proceed at some length to describe the invention.

It is a remarkable fact, that a country like England, which for nearly a century past has made such gigantic advances in the invention and improvement of mechanical power, should have continued the rude invention of the earliest ages for the grinding of wheat, without a single alteration in principle, and with but few material changes in adaptation, until the invention by Mr. Westrup of the CONICAL MILL. It is almost equally remarkable, that when colossal edifices have been for years past, and still are, reared for the manufacture of so many and such various branches of industry and commerce, the manufacture of one of the two necessities of life should have been left to the very inadequate agency of the ordinary corn mills at present in use. Mr. Westrup, however, a practical London miller and baker, of upwards of thirty years' experience, having had his attention roused by alterations of the old mill, on which he suggested some valuable practical improvements, was induced, by these and other circumstances, to consider the defects of the whole system; and from this he was led to the invention of an entirely new principle of grinding wheat, for which—with other inventions for cleaning the wheat and dressing the flour, he obtained a patent under the Great Seal of England.

Having completed a mill on his patented principle, he placed it in the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in the year 1851, where it attracted marked attention from His Royal Highness Prince Albert, who visited it on several occasions; and the following account of it—which is extracted from a "Rudimentary Treatise on the Power of Water," by Mr. Joseph Glynn, F.R.S., &c., may be given as the impartial opinion of a competent authority:—

"The Conical Flour Mill, so to speak, has two pairs of millstones combined, working together, the one pair placed above the other, so that the upper pair commences the grinding process, and the lower pair completing it; there is a space between the two pairs of mill-stones about twenty-seven or thirty inches in height, and the greater portion of this height or space is used for a vertical dressing-mill, the spindle which drives the stones being fitted with brushes, and the space enclosed with a cylindrical screen of fine wirecloth, mounted on a frame in the usual way. The upper mill-stones are fixed, and the lower stones revolve, and both the upper and lower stones are placed upon one spindle. The upper stones are each made in two parts or semicircles bolted together, for the purpose of fixing or displacing when needful, and they are capable of adjustment by means of fixed wedges or inclined planes, on which they rest, so that, by the action of a screw and wheel, a partial horizontal turn or twist of either of the upper stones causes it to slide up or down on these bent wedges or inclined planes, which are placed round the circumference

of the stone. It is thus raised or lowered, and the grinding space adjusted with great facility. The lower mill-stones, which revolve, are convex, and the upper stones concave and annular, for the stone being of small diameter the eye of the stone is large in proportion. The diameter is about two feet six inches, and the grinding surface on each side of this ring of stone eight or nine inches broad; the rise or bevel of the cone in that

width is about four inches. The stones being small necessarily revolve rapidly, say about 250 revolutions per minute. The finest flour is brushed through the wire-work of the vertical cylinder, and received in a casing of wood. The larger particles and portions of the corn imperfectly ground pass into the lower pair of stones, and are reduced into meal ready for dressing in the ordinary way."

"As, by this arrangement of parts, the corn cannot be delivered into the centre of the upper mill-stones, a hopper or chamber is placed on one side, with a sliding tube or feed-pipe in the top of it, and an upright spindle carrying a dish, which, revolving quickly, evenly distributes the corn. This description will probably enable the reader to understand the annexed engraving, which is copied from a section obtained from the inventor.

A summary of the advantages to be obtained by the employment of Mr. Westrup's Patent Mill, may be gathered from the following extracts, taken from a petition presented by Lord Beaumont to the House of Lords, and by Sir John Villiers Shelley, Bart., M.P., to the House of Commons, on tendering the use of the patent for the army and navy, upon such terms as Parliament should deem expedient:—

"That, by this invention, very great improvements have been effected in the grinding of flour, by the prevention of waste, the economy of time, space, and labour, and the production of a better and healthier article for the consumption of the whole nation.

"That, with regard to the prevention of waste, the method of grinding by this invention, if universally adopted, would save to the population of England, from the same quantity of wheat which they consume at present, no less than \$1,857,120 quartern loaves, which, at 6d. per loaf, would be in money value the large amount of £2,046,428 per annum.

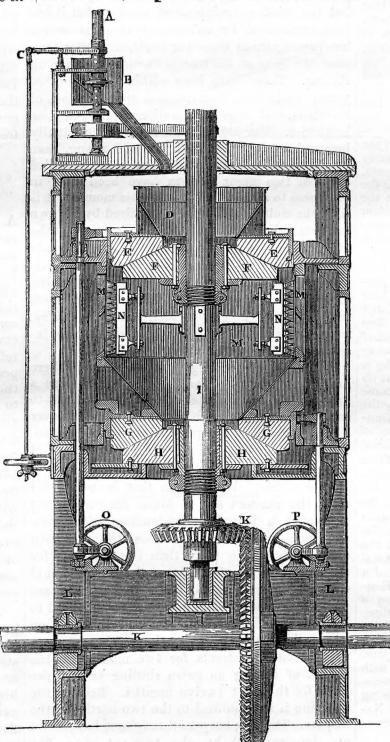
"That, with regard to the economy of time and labour, the report of the engineer shows that flour is obtained by this invention at little more than one-half the cost of the steam-power, fuel, and labour usually employed, equal to a gain of nearly 100 per cent.

"That, with regard to better and healthier bread being produced by this invention than that usually sold, it has been found that flour ground by this process is stronger, and lasts longer, than the ordinary flour while it cannot become sour and unwholesome, which are fruitful sources of many and fatal diseases.

"That flour produced by this invention will possess all the superior advantages of Parisian flour, in colour and other respects, so as to render unnecessary any further importations from France, giving to our own farmers and millers a new market, and great increase of custom and profit."

The evidence of physicians and other medical and scientific men shows, in a startling manner, that many ailments and diseases are traceable to the deterioration of flour by the common process, which may be prevented by the adoption of the new principle.

We understand a petition is now before the Board of Trade, or the Privy Council, signed by the Earl of Essex, Lord Portman, Sir J. V. Shelley, Bart., M.P., the Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, M.P., the Right Hon. R. A. Christopher, M.P., W. A. Mackinnon, M.P., J. Bonham Carter, M.P., C. Hindley, M.P., B. B. Cabell, M.P., praying for a charter of incorpo-



(A)—Feed pipe.  
(B)—Chamber containing feed regulator.  
(C)—Feed regulator.  
(D)—Cone over the eye of the stones which receives the wheat for the regulator.  
(E)—Upper top mill-stone (stationary).  
(F)—Upper runner.  
(G)—Lower top stone (stationary).  
(H)—Spindle upon which the runners are hung.  
(I)—Bevel wheels and driving shaft.  
(J)—Iron frame sustaining the whole machine.  
(K)—Vertical cylinder.  
(L)—Brushes acting on the wire cylinder.  
(M)—Regulator for adjusting the upper pair of stones.  
(N)—Regulator for adjusting the lower pair of stones.

ration, the above noblemen and gentlemen, with several others, having become large shareholders in the undertaking. They are about to erect at North Woolwich the largest mill ever built in the world (we give a sketch of the proposed building). It will contain a hundred double pairs of the conical stones, which will be adequate to the grinding of upwards of ten thousand quarters of wheat weekly. The mill will be on the banks of the Thames, and at the same time have a junction or siding from a railway connected with the chief wheat-growing counties, affording peculiar facilities for the receipt of grain either from home or abroad, and its dispersion when converted into flour. The want of such an establishment is daily becoming more obvious, as there are no means of supplying the rapidly-increasing demand for flour ground upon this principle.

Two of these mills can be seen daily at work at Messrs. Pavitt's, 247, Wapping, who are so satisfied of their superiority over the old system, that they are about having four more erected. Orders are also being executed for all parts of this country, as well as foreign. We understand that mills on this principle are about to be erected in Paris and New York.

#### THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

The committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the management of the National Gallery, report that the imperfections and irregularities in the working of the present system originate, for the most part, in certain fundamental defects and anomalies in the system itself; in the want, more especially, of any clear definition of the powers or responsibilities of the managing body of the institution, and in the absence of specific regulations for their guidance in the performance of their duties. In dealing with the subject of "picture cleaning," which has lately attracted some public attention, the committee detailed the processes adopted in the gallery, and state, from the evidence before them, it appears that discrepancies, varieties of opinion, and general uncertainty, even among professional men, prevail upon this subject. The committee examined many artists, amateurs, and picture-dealers, on the condition of the pictures cleaned under instructions in the National Gallery, and their evidence on the point exhibited great contrariety of judgment, and irreconcileable differences of taste; but the preponderance of testimony is to the effect that the appearance of the pictures has for the present been rendered less agreeable by the operation of cleaning. The committee recommend that, in future, no picture-cleaner shall be employed who does not give a full explanation of his mode of cleaning, and that this shall not be done without a written report from the directors of the gallery to the trustees. The committee state that after the National Gallery became public property, the principal charge of it devolved on the Treasury, and to this department of the Government, consequently, has attached the primary responsibility for the conduct of the establishment. The committee consider it but an act of justice to the trustees to add their opinion that the defects in the present management are chargeable on the system rather than on the individual managers. The committee observe that they are sensible of the obligation under which the public lies to the trustees for their disinterested services. The system itself, when first instituted, appeared to have been not only comparatively free from the more serious objections to which it has since become liable, but to have been calculated in many respects to promote the objects its founders had in view. In regard to the future management of the gallery, the committee have come to the following resolutions:—1. That a system of management by a Board of Trustees should be continued. 2. That no person should, in future, in virtue of any office, become a trustee. 3. That the trustees be appointed by the Treasury. 4. That the number of trustees be diminished as vacancies occur. 5. That the office of keeper of the gallery be abolished. 6. That a salaried director be appointed by the Treasury for a definite time, at the expiration of which he may be re-appointed. 7. That every recommendation for the purchase of a picture should originate with the directors, and be made in writing to the trustees. 8. That a fixed sum should be annually proposed to Parliament for the purchase of pictures, and placed at the disposal of the trustees. 9. That the site of the present National Gallery is not well adapted for the construction of a new gallery. 10. With respect to the estate at Kensington Gore, purchased by the Royal Commission of 1851, and by them offered to the nation, the committee recommend the acceptance of the offer of the Commissioners. 11. The committee are of opinion that the question of combining the various artistic and archaeological collections in the British Museum with the National Gallery be referred to a royal commission, and that no time should be lost in obtaining a decision on this subject, in order that the New National Gallery should be commenced with all convenient speed.

The committee sat upwards of thirty-five days, and the above is the quintessence of a report extending over some twenty folio pages.

**VALUE OF LAND IN THE CITY OF LONDON.**—A piece of land, situated at the north-west corner of Finch-lane, containing about 400 square yards, belonging to the corporation of St. Thomas's Hospital, has been let on lease, for a term of eighty years, at a rental of £1,300 per annum, to the Australasian Banking Company, with a condition to erect upon it a substantial stone building.

#### TO ADVERTISERS.

The Proprietors of the "ILLUSTRATED CRYSTAL PALACE GAZETTE" have determined to give the public not only the full advantage of the repeal of the Advertising Duty, but to reduce their charges to such a scale as shall place advertising within the means of all. They will receive advertisements at the following charges:—

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All advertisements must be paid for in advance. Advertisements must be forwarded to No. 6, Horse-shoe-court, by the 26th of each month.

#### Notice to Correspondents.

Owing to an unusual number of contributions from our friends on various subjects, we must substitute "The Trip to Dublin" for that of "Uncle David's Trip to Genoa, Florence, Rome, &c.," till next month.

The names of the jury at the late Crystal Palace accident inquest will, if possible, appear in our next.

#### THE ILLUSTRATED CRYSTAL PALACE GAZETTE.

OCTOBER, 1853.

#### The News of the Month.

"PEACE on earth, goodwill among men," is the message to the world of industrial congresses and cosmopolitan exhibitions. It was proudly hoped that the half-century inaugurated by the gathering of all peoples on the banks of the Thames, would, unlike its predecessor, know of war only by history and rumour. Hitherto this promise of 1851 has not been absolutely broken; but the most sanguine must confess that it has been preserved by submission to evil scarcely less in magnitude than war itself, and that even now the bay of the trumpet seems breaking on the ear. There have been within the last three years, revolutions, insurrections, apprehensions of invasions, and huge preparations for immediate hostilities. For the last four months mutually incensed armies, a hundred thousand strong, have been separated only by a river, and the allied fleets of two great powers have been kept in readiness to assist a third. At this moment, it is said, the Sultan of Turkey is required by his own subjects either to abdicate or lead them against the Russians, who continue to entrench themselves in the two finest provinces of the Turkish empire. What a pity,—who will not exclaim?—that the nations whose representatives excited so much interest, and indulged in such amicable rivalry, in the alcoves of the World's Fair, should now insist on fighting one another to the death!

But not among foreign nations alone is there hostility. Our own people have got to learn a lesson which the spectacle of May 1851, ought to have gone far to teach them. Strikes all over the country show the prevalence of much ignorance and ill-feeling among both employers and the employed. We, of course, pretend not to lecture either. We believe that in nearly all cases the masters are to blame for not having cultivated a better understanding with their workmen—that, in many cases, the workmen are plainly asking more than it is possible for the masters to give. One thing we would strongly impress upon both—that strikes are mutually ruinous. Few capitalists can afford to let their machinery stand idle, and their money lie at the banker's—no workman can afford to walk about the streets for two months on the chance of having an extra shilling or two per week for the next twelve months. Besides, the suffering is not confined to the two parties in the dispute. The shopkeepers throughout Lancashire are impoverished by the turn-out of a few thousand cotton-spinners. The London mechanician has to pay, in the price of his coals, for a quarrel between the North Riding colliers and mine-owners. The millions of England and Scotland are, as it were, threads in the same piece of cloth; and a rent in one place may run across the whole fabric.

There is another cause of public disquietude. The cholera is once more amongst us. At Newcastle, it has killed more than a thousand people

in three weeks—in Gateshead, nearly three hundred. In Liverpool and London it has taken its solitary victims, as a forewarning of the slaughter it may intend. The Privy Council has put in force the Act for the Removal of Nuisances and Prevention of Contagious Diseases; and the Board of Health is vigorous both in counsel and action. But why was the Act ever allowed to become powerless? and why is the Board so intermittent in its activity? Nothing can be plainer than the fact that filth and foul air are the congenital conditions of cholera and fever—except it be that other fact, that filth and foul air abound in all our cities, towns, and villages; and that, consequently, contagious diseases destroy annually tens of thousands who might otherwise live and be happy. Why, what is the condition, the notorious condition, of this beautiful village of Sydenham? A correspondent says, "The effluvia from the drains are continually encountered in our walks;" and we may be certain that the enemy we meet in the path enters unseen through the windows. Why this abominable state of things is not cured, let another correspondent, "A Sydenham Sufferer," explain. And, unfortunately, the story he tells is the story of sanitary reform throughout England. Not a populous place, not a salubrious site, but its mortality is aggravated, its salubrity mocked, by poisonous vapours, against which acts of parliament have been passed, but which sluggish functionaries or niggardly authorities permit to do their deadly work. We trust, however, there is no cause to apprehend a serious or prolonged visitation of cholera this year; yet urge our neighbours, and our readers everywhere, to trust to no one, while hoping for the best. If every man would cleanse his own door-way and flush his own house-drains, fever would soon die out, and cholera depart to return no more.

The British Association has held, during the past month, a highly-successful meeting in the important town of Hull. We have been favoured with a brief narrative of its proceedings, from the pen of one of its most eminent savans. Proud are the trophies of intellectual industry. The Association has collected,—happy the auguries of human amelioration which it repeats from year to year!

#### PROGRESS OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE WORKS.

A PLEASING front view of the entire edifice can now be had from the grounds. The basement of the structure is at the top of a hill, 200 feet high; and when the sun is shining, the arched roofs, galleries, and corridors, sparkle to the delighted sight. The *coup d'œil*, even in its present incomplete state, proclaims the presence of the most refined and elegant artistic taste, improved and perfected by practical experience. Every device that ingenuity could suggest has been adopted, to give it in most, if not in every, point of view, uniqueness, novelty, beauty, grandeur, and an exquisite linear form. The architectural effect is, indeed, without a parallel, and adequately to describe it, a new nomenclature must be invented. Wander, too, where you will about the gardens,—on the margin of the lakes or in the beautiful walks,—from every opening which the copse, or the woods, or the foliage of the varied trees presents, some portion of this "People's Palace" meets your enchanted gaze.

Enter this wondrous building by one of the grand entrances immediately under the transverse arches, approached by steep flights of steps constructed of solid granite; the centre and principal one of which is 100 feet in breadth, and the east and west ends 20 feet narrower. On either side, the steps are flanked with massive blocks of granite, surmounted with colossal stone sphinxes, 14 feet in length and 7 feet in height.

Having passed into the building, new and yet more imposing wonders attract attention. The vastness of the space, the comparatively insignificant circumference of the columns, the fairy-like appearance of the whole as the eye glances vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, render it impracticable, for a time, to note such details as the spiral staircases, the galleries and landings, the arched roofing, the

Louvre ventilators. The workmen, too, in the execution of their varied tasks, intricate and delicate, surpassing gymnastic performers in their extraordinary feats, add enlivenment and excitement to the scene. A vast collection of sculpture lies unpacked and strewed about in all directions, of every age and nation. Originals in stone and marble; casts of every description—ancient, mediæval, and modern. Here, the Apollo Belvidere, the Venus de Medicis, the Farnesian Hercules, the Laocoon, the Discobolus; all Greek statues—relics of an age of lively enthusiasm for the majestic and the beautiful—a period which has left all posterity mere students in the art of sculpture. There, works of the Roman era, in which there is less of beauty but more of portraiture—for it was the conquerors, the emperors, the orators, the Romans admired, and they cherished their memories by the preservation of their images. In the next age a relapse from high art takes place, and instead of the ideal perfection of the Greeks, or *vraisemblance* of the Romans, figures without proportion—ungraciously to the sight, stiff, elaborate, formal, and grotesque, are the characteristics of the Byzantine period: witness the raising of Lazarus, which, doubtless, at that time excited feelings of commiseration and awe, but now is repugnant to the feelings, almost to contempt. Nevertheless, in many of the figures of that period may be discerned a touch of genius; and from them may be acquired by the student some knowledge of bygone days; for the varied costumes are given, even to the most minute details, with a fidelity to truth stamping them as the habiliments then worn, so that the exact draping of the hero was evidently that in which he was clothed when on earth, centuries past. We come next to the time when Michael Angelo chiselled works that even Phidias or Praxiteles might not have been ashamed to acknowledge. It is well known how deeply he was imbued with admiration of their productions; that even after he had lost his sight, he used to be taken to his favourite antique torso, that he might feel it. Many figures by him, both in a finished and an unfinished state, are in the western gallery. A large collection of modern productions, both by foreign and native artists, are also there. Casts of the colossal head of Bavaria, and the equestrian statue of Frederick the Great by Rauch. The equestrian figure of King Charles, too, which give to the portion of the building on which it stands the designation of "Charing Cross." Thorwaldsen, Canova, and other great European artists, with all our own native sculptors,—whose imaginings, though mentioned last in this description, are not least in whatever is truly valuable, talented, and praiseworthy—are also largely represented.

The various courts already afford much gratification to the visitors. Involuntarily, our memories recall what we have read of the discoveries in the ruins of Nineveh and Babylon by our indefatigable countryman, Layard, who has resuscitated the very form of nations well-nigh forgotten. One enormous figure is being constructed—a seated Colossus—which must be seen to be appreciated.

Leaving the building we return to the grounds. The large reservoir at the Sydenham end is nearly excavated; both of the towers are advancing in height; and the garden is beginning to afford an inkling of what may ultimately be expected. The upper terrace, upon which we may fancy we are now standing, on a level with the base of the flight of steps, is very pleasing. It measures 2,000 feet in length, 50 feet in breadth, and 18 feet in height. It is ornamented with a handsome stone facing and balustrade. A few steps lead to the gardens, from which may be seen reservoirs, with very handsome stone niches, where dolphins, basins, and other devices are carved, from which trickles the silvery liquid into the sheet of water underneath. The following figures are already mounted upon their pedestals—“Italy,” by Monti; “Australia,” by Bell; a Farnese Hercules; and two casts—one of Esculapius, and the other of Mercury. Broad

gravel walks are being formed between the parterres and lawns, leading to the lower terrace, which has a sloping bank of turf, looking brilliantly, and contrasting well with the varied embellishments of the upper. The basins, each 300 feet in circumference, together with the large basin, the periphery of which is 1,200 feet, and situated opposite the centre transept, below the lower terrace, have received the last touch. Indeed, every part of the ground is rapidly progressing towards completion. The engine-houses are being forwarded. The grounds for the reception of the rocks, ferns, palms, coniferous trees and plants, and mammalia of the antediluvian era, are beginning to assume the appearance intended. A rich store of animals, birds, and reptiles, in natural history is already accumulated. The ethnological department—which include subjects from our first parents, through all nations, ancient and modern, civilized and uncivilized, up to the Aztec Lilliputians—has the clothing, war-implements, &c.; and the figures are only waiting for the blotting-paper?

Thus far, then, has the World's Exhibition advanced towards completion, assuring us that there is every prospect of its opening on the 1st of May, 1854. Did Sir Joseph Paxton ever dream of such a magnificent result when he sketched his ideas of the Hyde-park structure on a simple piece of blotting-paper?

The park consists of about 289 acres of land, situated partly in the county of Kent, and partly in Surrey. The plan of the estate calls it “Penge, in the parish of Battersea.” The original estates bought from Mr. Leo Schuster, Mrs. Laurie, and others, comprised 389 acres, but 100 acres were resold to Mr. Wise, of Reigate, for the sum of £100,000. The building stands on about 20 acres, consequently there is about 269 acres left for the Italian gardens, fountains, reservoirs, lakes, &c.

The ten large fountains, for which there is at present about 100 designs, sent in by Kiss, Owen Jones, Bell, Horeau, Thomas, Digby Wyatt, and others, will play about twenty times during the season, and will eclipse the world-famous Versailles.

The great lake will occupy thirty acres, are a uniform depth of thirty inches. There is a gondola at present in the Palace, and the gondolier will, in appropriate costume, appear on the lake with his “tiny craft” next summer; in winter, it is proposed to use the lake for skating purposes. At one end of it, a clump of trees in a hillock was growing, and Sir Joseph Paxton, ever ready to avail himself of the natural advantages of the place in carrying out his grand designs, conceived the bold plan of creating a hillock at the other end of the lake by artificial means—in fact, to improvise one. A troop of “navvies” were employed to form this hillock with the clay and loam brought from the excavations of other parts of the grounds, and the trees removed from the ground which now form the thirty acre lake, were placed upon it, and there they may now see.

The Sydenham reservoir is about 150 feet square, and 20 feet deep, formed of red brick, with enormous buttresses on the side nearest to the public road. The creation of another reservoir in Dulwich Wood, communicating with the one already in progress, has been contemplated.

**CRYSTAL PALACE.**—The following distinguished personages paid a visit to the Crystal Palace on Thursday last.—His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Lord Exmouth, Lord Hawarden, Lady Surgen, Lady Elizabeth Dickens, Lady Abbington, Major Tullock, Lieutenant-Colonel Fordyce, Newdegate, Esq., M.P., Countess Andiary, Captain Preston, Captain Wilton, A. G. Archibald, Esq., Cardinal Wiseman, Lady Frederick Beauclerk, Captain Tathwell, Salustiano Olivares, Esq., Captain Miller, Hon. A. Ponsonby, Rev. G. T. Bennett, Rev. C. Parke, Rev. T. Tate, L. L. de Montmorency, Esq., Greenwich Hospital, Rev. G. W. Kershaw, Hon. E. Brownlowe, Mr. John Davies, M.D., Mr. and Mrs. H. Legge, Dr. E. Osiander, Madame Viesaline et ses filles, Miss Agnes Leech, Robert Longaman, Esq., and Miss Steel, New York, U.S.

**NEW CHURCH AT LEE, BLACKHEATH.**—The parish of Lee, Kent, on the 3rd of September, presented a livelier appearance than the inhabitants ever before witnessed. The day being set apart for the celebration of the jubilee of the respected rector, the Rev. G. Lock, who on that day had completed the 50th year of his incumbency, at the advanced age of 84, and also for the laying by him the foundation-stone of a new church, to be called Christ Church, in Lee Park, a short distance from the Blackheath railway station. The edifice will be in the early English style, with a spire 150 feet high. The design is by Mr. G. S. Scott,

## Original Poetry.

OH! WHAT A WORLD IT MIGHT BE.  
(Written for the *Illustrated Crystal Palace Gazette*, by Charles Swain, Esq.)

Oh! what a world it might be,  
If hearts were always kind;  
If Friendship, none would slight thee,  
And Fortune prove less blind.

Love's own voice to guide us,  
Unchangingly and fond—  
With all we wish beside us,  
And not a care beyond.

Oh! what a world it might be,  
More blest than that of yore;  
Come, learn, and 'twill require ye  
To love each other more.

Oh! what a world of beauty  
A loving heart might plan,  
If man but did his duty,  
And helped his brother man.

Then angel-guests would brighten  
The threshold with their wings,  
And love, divine, enlighten  
The old forgotten springs.

Oh! what a world it might be,  
If hearts were always kind;  
If Friendship, none would slight thee,  
And Fortune prove less blind.

**TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.**—Mr. Lindsay, of Dundee, has been lecturing at Glasgow on a project of his for carrying messages to any part of the globe without wires, by making the waters of the ocean their bearer. It seems he has succeeded in sending his messages short distances without submarine wires; but whether there is any limit to this plan is still untried. Mr. Lindsay reasons that, if so many feet of plates send a message so many yards, so many more feet would send it a proportionate distance beyond.

**HENRY E. STRICKLAND, Esq., F.R.S.**—Seldom has anything caused a deeper sorrow than the unhappy fate of this distinguished naturalist and ornithologist. Mr. Strickland had been at Hull, in company with Sir William Jardine, Bart., his respected father-in-law, of Jardine Hall, Dumfrieshire, when he was induced to go to the Scarborough cutting, on the Manchester line. Whilst making notes concerning the strata, a coal train coming on the down line led him to step on the up line, upon which a passenger train was advancing unperceived through the tunnel, by which he lost his valuable life instantaneously, in a way too painful to describe. He was President of the Ashmolean Museum, and also performed Dr. Buckland's duties as reader in Geology at Oxford. Mr. Strickland was much esteemed for his unassuming manners, and highly respected by his contemporaries in scientific pursuits. Truly, “In the midst of life we are at death.”

**IRON BUILDINGS.**—MESSRS. E. I. Bellhouse and Co., of Manchester, are preparing an extensive iron Custom-house and public store for Payti, in Peru. It will be 70 feet square within the walls, and have balconies and verandahs projecting out 6½ feet from each face of the building. The main portion of the structure will be of two lofty stories, and there will be a platform 22½ feet square above the roof, from which will rise a circular tower, with a smaller tower above, surmounted by a cupola and flag-staff. The extreme height from the ground to the top of the flag-staff will be above 100 feet.—Messrs. Bellhouse have sent out to India the iron roof of a church, which is calculated to neutralize the intense heat of tropical climates.—At New York, a lodging-house is being prepared for the accommodation of 1,000 persons. Its exterior is being made of iron; the inner walls and partitions of brick. It will be thoroughly fire-proof in every part.

**THE PLOUGH SUPERSEDED.**—Mr. Mechi says he has received a machine from America which will “not only derive, cheaply, and efficiently cultivate and pulverize the soil, but, at the same time, sow the seed, and leave all in a finished condition.” It will, also, by a simple inversion, cut and gather the crop without any rake or other complication; will be continuous, and without stoppage.” He also says: “The implement, when complete, will weigh about 20 to 25 cwt., will require a pair of horses, and representing the power of twelve or more real horses. The implement for digging will require one man and one boy only, including the management of the steam-engine, in reaping, the same, with the addition of three men to bind, as the corn falls in their arms. The men will be carried on the machine.”

An Australian house of wood is being erected at Hull, to cost between £3,000 and £4,000. The centre of the building consists of two spacious rooms—a dining and drawing-room, 22 feet by 16; the right wing of two bed-rooms, 16 feet by 14, a dressing-room, 12 feet square; and a library, 16 feet square; and the left wing of a bed-room, 16 feet by 14; a dressing-room, 12 feet square; nursery, 16 feet by 12; and two bed-rooms in connexion with the nursery, 16 feet by 8, with pantries in the angles. The whole of the rooms are 11 feet in height. The wings are connected by a spacious corridor, 50 feet by 6, in the centre of which is to be fixed a handsome illuminated clock. The building will be covered with zinc. The extent of ground it now covers is 88 feet by 60.

## Advertisements.

**T.** COVELL, Butcher, Lower Sydenham.

**T.** D A W S., Carpenter, Builder, and Undertaker, Upper Sydenham. House Agent, &c.

**M** R. D. DUNBAR, Sculptor, 1, Crystal Terrace, Sydenham Hill, Kent.

**E** STABLISHED UPWARDS OF 100 YEARS.—**J. R. OUZMAN**, Tailor, &c., Sydenham.

**G.** CLEWLOW, Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, Westow-street, Westow-hill, Norwood.

**B.** PARSEY, Plumber, Painter, & Glazier, Sydenham. Paper Hanger and House Agent.

**R.** CHARE, Carpenter, Joiner, &c., Sydenham Hill.

**J**AMES DOWSE, Carrier, High-street, Upper Sydenham.—J. D. calls at the City and West End daily.

**T.** CLEWLOW, Boot and Shoe Maker, 5, Ann's-place, opposite the Fox and Hounds, Sydenham.—Repairs neatly done.

**W.** DEAN, Fancy Bread and Biscuit Baker, Pastry Cook and Confectioner, Upper Sydenham.—N.B. Cona Dealer and Flower Factor.

**E**LIZABETH COVELL, Butcher, Lower Sydenham. Families regularly supplied on the most reasonable terms.

**F**REDERICK SALMON, Butcher, High-street, Upper Sydenham. Families waited upon for Orders.

**S.** MORRIS, Crystal Palace Dining and Coffee Rooms, Upper Sydenham. Charrington's Ale and Porter. Dinners for small parties.

**W.** H. CAMPART, 23, High-street, Croydon, Hat and Cap Manufacturer, courts ready-money customers for the best and cheapest goods.

**F**URNISHED APARTMENTS.—Sitting and Bedrooms. Good Cooking, with attendance.—Address, Fancy Repository, Adelaide-road, Penge.

**C**RYSTAL PALACE COFFEE ROOMS, J. BERRY, Proprietor, 3, Wells-road, Upper Sydenham. A Private Room for small parties.

**C.** PEARSON, Furnishing Ironmonger, Brass, Tin, Zinc, and Iron-plate Worker, High-street, Upper Sydenham.

**J.** POOLE, Tailor, Hamburg-terrace, Upper Sydenham. Established 1836. Gentlemen's own materials made up.

**J.** W. PARRITT, Plumber, Glazier, Painter, Paper Hanger, and Gas-Fitter, Upper Sydenham. Writing, Graining, and Ornamental Painting.

**E**DWARD JINKS, Builder, and Contractor for General Repairs (adjoining the Camera), Westow-hill, Upper Norwood.

**W.** SWEETING, Hair Cutter, and Ladies' Hair-Dresser, Upper Sydenham. Combs and Brushes.

**F**URNISHED APARTMENTS for GENTLEMEN. A Sitting-room and Bed-rooms. Good Cooking and Attendance. Address—Fancy Repository, Adelaide-road, Penge.

**S**AMUEL BAXTER, Corn and Coal Merchant, Flour Dealer and Seedman (wholesale and retail), Forest-hill, Sydenham. Orders punctually attended to. Malt and Hops.

**H.** SHAW, Member of the College of Veterinary Surgeons, Veterinary Surgeon, Horse and Cattle Mender of every description, Sydenham Hill and Perry Rise, Sydenham.

**G.** SMITH, Stationery, Berlin, and Fancy Warehouse, 102, North End, Croydon, Surrey (directly opposite the Police Station). Agent for Mintons' Wax Flower Materials.

**G.** HUTSON, Carpenter, Builder, and Undertaker, opposite Ivy-place, Upper Sydenham, Kent. Venetian Blinds repaired and made to order. Estimates given for Buildings and general repairs.

**W**ANTED, a Steady, middle-aged Woman as COOK.—Apply to Mrs. RIDGEWAY, Greyhound Hotel and Posting House, nearly opposite the Railway-station, Sydenham. September 26, 1853.

**M**RS. W. DANIEL most respectfully intimates that, through the advice of her numerous friends, she proposes offering her services in Sydenham and neighbourhood, as Ladies' Chiropractist, or Corn-cutter, on the most reasonable terms. Apply to Mrs. Sale, linen draper, Upper Sydenham, or at the office of the Crystal Palace Gazette, August 23, 1853.

**C**HATTELL'S TEAS are best, and the best goods are cheapest. Church-street, Greenwich. Carriage free everywhere.

**C**RYSTAL PALACE CIGAR SHOP, G. CLEWLOW, Weston-street, Norwood. Best Havana, Cigars, Cheroots, and Fancy Pipes. Agent for Richardson, Branson, and Richardson's Tobacco. Ginger Beer, Soda Water, and Lemonade.

**T**HOMAS SHEPPARD, Cheesemonger and Provision Merchant, 88, High-street (near the Town Hall), Borrough. Best goods delivered at lowest town prices. Forest-hill and Dulwich every Monday and Thursday. Sydenham and Lewisham every Tuesday and Friday.

**T**HE VICTORIA and ALBERT REFRESHMENT ROOMS, Anley Vale, Norwood. Best refreshments. Parties visiting the Palace will find genteel accommodation at moderate charges. French and German spoken. The "Crystal Palace Gazette" constantly on sale.

**B.** J. BOUCHER, Grocer and Tea Dealer. Superior British Wines.—Every article genuine, and warranted to cope with any London Hawker, either in price or quality.

Post Office, Upper Sydenham, Sept. 23, 1853.

**W.** EARLY, the old-established China, Glass, and Staffordshire Warehouses, Wools-rod, near the Windmill, Upper Sydenham. China and Glass carefully packed. Goods lent on hire. Riveting and Matching. Lamp Shades of every description. Flower Pots, Draw Pipes, &c.

**T**HE FORESTERS' RAILWAY TAVERN, E. POTTS, Proprietor, Forest-hill Railway Station. A splendid room for meetings or dinner parties, with a fine view of the railway. Orders executed for Bass's Pale Ale and Guiness's Stout.

**E**STABLISHED 1841.—**J. W. LYON**,

Furnishing Ironmonger, Stove and Range Maker, Smith, Tinner, Wire Worker, Brazier, Cutler, Locksmith, and Bell-hanger, Upper Sydenham and Forest Hill. Bathes of every description on sale or hire. Builders supplied with the best terms.

**C.** J. BLAKE, Bookseller and Stationer. Music and Fancy Repository, 4, Ampleforth-street, Sydenham. Books, Novels, Pictures, Magazines, and fancy articles of every description, at London prices. Bookbinding, Engraving, Lithographic and Letter-press printing. Pianofortes tuned and set on hire.

**G**EORGE KERSHAW and SON, Wholesale and Export Stationers, Account Book Envelopes, Paper, Lace, Paper, Valentine, and Party Goods, 17, Whitechapel-street, London. Publishers of the Illustrated Note and Letter-papers of the most beautiful Scenery and Buildings in England. Every description of Stationery and Fancy Goods for the Trade.

**M.** BEDFORD & CO., Drapers, High-street, Upper Sydenham.—M. B. & Co. beg to state to the Inhabitants of Sydenham and neighbourhood, that they are now offering their stock of Drapery, Shawls, Hosiery, Lace, &c., at extraordinarily low prices, in order to effect a clearance for the Autumn purchases.

P.S.—Millinery in all its branches.

**A.** SEDDON (fourteen years at Messrs. F. B. Adams and Sons, St. John's-square, London), Cooper, Watch and Clock Repairer, Lower Sydenham, Kent. Established 1848. Good Silver Lover Watches, manufactured according to order, from £5 5s. Eight day Dials, for halls, shops, &c., from £3. All kinds of Watches, Clocks, Musical Boxes, and Jewellery, repaired. Clocks wound and kept in repair by the year.

**B.** BARRETT, Timber-Merchant, Builder, and upholsterer, begs respectfully to return his sincere thanks to the Inhabitants of Sydenham and its vicinity for the patronage he has received during the last twelve years, and also to inform them that he has opened premises in Upper Sydenham, nearly opposite the Fox and Hounds, and hopes, by strict attention to their wants and moderate charges to reward a continuance of their favours.

**I**RONMONGERY, HORSESHOEING, &c.—JOHN PENDER most respectfully intimates to his Friends in Sydenham, Norwood, Penge, Forest Hill, Lewisham, and the Public generally, that he continues to execute orders in every department of his business, including the Manufacturing, Monumental Railing, Sculptors, Skeleton Irons, &c., &c., on the shortest notice.

Kirkdale, opposite the Church, Upper Sydenham, September 24, 1853.

**S**EAWARD'S CRYSTAL PALACE GUIDE. Price 6d. Containing an authentic Account of all the Places and Objects of Interest within Ten Miles on either side. Illustrated with Two Steel Engravings. Edited by H. G. ADAMS.

London : MEAD and POWELL, Railway Arcade, 22, Bridgesgate-street.

EWINS, Paternoster-row. ARTHUR, 22, Bridgesgate-street.

Without : SEAWARD, Greenwich and Norwood; and all Booksellers.

**H**OLLY-BUSH TAVERN and ALBERT CHOP HOUSE, corner of Westow-street, Norwood, HENRY FIVINGS, Proprietor.—Visitors to the Crystal Palace will find an excellent, comfortable accommodation, and a splendid view, combined with moderate charges, this excellent and extensive establishment is unrivaled. H. F., being a Bonder of the Whole, Dealer in Wines and Spirits, is enabled to offer the lowest prices of any Restaurant in London. Private Rooms for large or small Parties. The stabling and coach-houses are of the first order. The most extensive view in Norwood of the surrounding scenery.

**D**OLMAN and SONS, Carvers and Gilders, Plate Glass Pictures, Picture-cleaners, and Restorers, Nelson-street, Greenwich. Chimney, Console, Dressing, and Wash-tables, Fireplaces, Mantelpieces, and Chimneypieces, Founts, Picture-Frames, Room Moldings, Glass Shades, Alabaster Vases, &c. Re-gilding, Writing on Glass, Glasses Repolished and Renewed. Glass and Pictures removed, insured, and re-machined. Estimates given, and workmen sent to all parts of the country. Goods delivered within ten miles free. Established 1800.

BIBLES, PRAYERS, and CHURCH SERVICES.

**T**HE CHEAPEST House in London for elegant and plain Bindings is at DOWNES' Oxford Bible Depot, 54, Paternoster-row. Elegant assortment of books for presents always in stock.

Just published, price Sixpence,  
DEDICATED TO THE WORKING CLASSES.

**M**UCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING; or, the Religion of England staked on the opening or shutting of the Crystal Palace on Sundays. By a CHEATMAN of the CHURCH OF ENGLAND. London : Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. Darlington : Watson

**T**HE ALLEYN'S HEAD INN, J. BALL, Proprietor, BULWICH COMMON.—This commodious and much-repaired Inn is very conveniently situated for visitors to the New Crystal Palace, being only a few minutes' walk from it, having large handsome rooms, capable of dining fifty persons, with a leaded flat roof, affording a beautiful view of the Palace and surrounding scenery. Good Supplies. Omnibuses to the City through Camberwell twenty times per day.

**I**MPORTANT to the Families and Inhabitants of Sydenham and neighbourhood. M. BEDFORD and CO., Drapers, &c., Upper Sydenham, invite particular attention to a large portion of their valuable Stock of Pictures, Blankets, Counterpanes, Linen Cloths, Sheets, Handkerchiefs, Cloths, Alpaca, &c., with which are now offering for the best manufacture deserve every respect; every novelty in Ribbons, Bonnets, and Millinery; also a great variety of Fancy Dresses, Prints, and Stays, at very reasonable prices. Furniture, Table Covers, Druggists, &c., &c., for furnishing purposes. Observe, M. BEDFORD and CO., High-street, Upper Sydenham.

**C**ITY of LONDON PIANOFORTE MANUFACTORY.—New Pianofortes for Hire, or for purchase, plain, decorated, or painted, free. PEACHTREE, Queen-street, Bishopsgate-street. Within, opposite the Mass Society. The most extensive and elegant assortment of Pianofortes in London, new and second-hand, of every description and price, for sale, hire, exchange, or exportation, at the lowest prices for instruments that really can be warranted. G. PEACHTREE, Manufactory and Warehouse, 73, Bishopsgate-street Within, London.

**T**HE TEA DUTY IS NOW REDUCED, and enables us to sell good Congon Tea at 3s. per pound. The best Congon Tea at 4s. 4d.—Prime rice Tea at 3s. 8d.—Good Green Tea at 3s. 8d.—Prize Green Tea at 3s. 8d.—Excellent Green Tea at 3s. 8d.—Very good Juncea Green Tea at 3s. per pound. We are also selling pure Jamaica Coffee at 1s. per pound, and the best old Mocha at 1s. 4d. Tea or Coffee at 10s. 4d. carriage paid to any part of England. WILLIAM ADAMS & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW, MESSRS. J. KING, William-street, City, London. A general price current free by post on application. All goods sent carriage free by our vans to Sydenham and vicinity.

**I**MPORTANT NOTICE.—The Inhabitants of Sydenham and its neighbourhood are requested to note that those who have agreed to close their respective Places of Business at EIGHT o'clock in the Evening (Saturdays excepted) on the 1st of October, 1853, to March 31, 1854.

WILLIAM JONES. WILLIAM SALE.  
MARY BIRD. JOHN EATON.  
JOHN FALLIWELL. JANE GARDENER.  
JOHN WILCOCKS.

**P**LUMBERS by APPOINTMENT to the LAMBETH WATER-WORKS.—ADAMS & PURKISS, Gas Fitters, Glaziers, Houses and Decorative Painters, and Paper-hangers, Farnham, Sydenham, and Peckham, have recently added to the number of their workmen, so that, in addition to their well-selected stock of Paper-hangings, Gas Chandeliers, Pendants, Pillars, &c., they have added the Orr and Colour Trade to their Premises at High-street, Upper Sydenham. Their Workmen will be soon ready to receive Estimates given for General Repairs, Writing, Graining, and Polishing. Water-closets fixed and repaired. An extensive assortment of paper-hanging always in stock. House and Estate Agents.

**BOTTLED STOUT and ALE.—Imperial Measure.**

	PRICES.	PER DOZ.
Imperial pint.....	s. d.	
half pint.....	3	6
Reputed quarts.....	4	6
" pints.....	2	6
Imperial pints.....	2	6
" half-pints.....	2	0
Reputed quarts.....	4	6
" pints.....	2	6

Prices, in Casks of 4s, 9s, 18s, and 36 Gallons.

XXX Ale ..... 1 per gallon.

XXX. Ale ..... 0 "

XX. Ale ..... 0 " "

Bitter Ale ..... 10s. 1s., and 1 s. 4 "

Stout ..... 0 " "

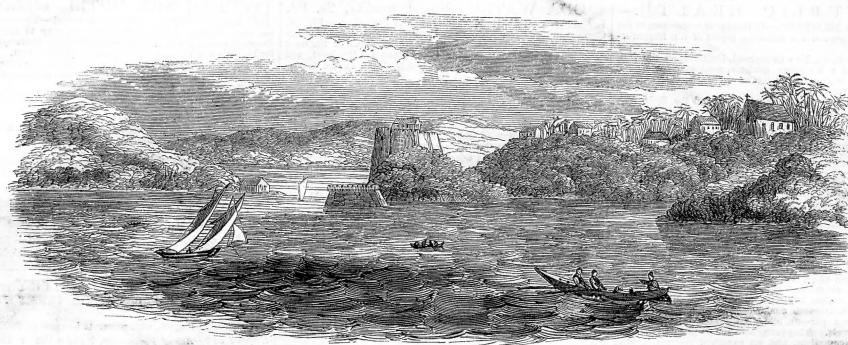
Porter ..... 0 " "

Orders will be punctually attended to, and sent free, any distance within ten miles of the Brewery.

MR. JOHN LOVIBOND, Nag's Head Brewery, Bridge-street, Greenwich. Carts to Sydenham every Wednesday.







PANAMA RAILWAY.

"We hail with satisfaction the establishment of the Australian Direct Steam Navigation Company, *via* Panama, incorporated by Royal Charter, dated 24th June, 1853, whereby the liability of individual shareholders is limited to the several amounts of their shares; capital £1,000,000, in 40,000 shares of £25 each, with power to increase the same; deposit, £2 per share." The route proposed is the direct line connecting England with Australia, and crossing the Isthmus of Panama. It may be described as divided into three stages—the Atlantic passage from Milford Haven to Navy Bay, the transit across the Isthmus—and the Pacific passage from Panama to Sydney and Melbourne, alternately coaling at Otaheite or other convenient stations.

By the adoption of the Panama route, New Zealand and the whole of the Australian colonies will be brought into direct communication not only with the mother-country and Europe, but also with the United States, Central and South America, California, and the South Sea Islands, and eventually with India and China. The distance from Milford Haven to Navy Bay is 4,552 nautical miles, and the passage across the Isthmus, by rail, to Panama 46 miles, which, with 4,448 miles to Otaheite, and 3,351 to Sydney, will give a gross total from England to Australia of 12,437 nautical miles; the distance the Company fully expect to be able to accomplish in 55 days, which will entitle them to claim the bonus of £6,000 per year, offered by the Legislative Council of New South Wales to the first company which shall bring Sydney within a course of post of 120 days with London, and in all probability secure the Government contract for the mails, while the saving of the interest on the gold that will be certain to be sent by the shortest and safest route will almost alone insure the success of such a company.

We congratulate the Company in having selected such practical and intelligent men for the management of the nautical department as Captain John Cockrane Hoseason, and Captain A. S. Hamond, who, as far back as 1850, pointed out, in a letter to the *Times*, the advantages of this route which are so manifest that it becomes a matter of surprise that it has not been adopted long since. The establishment of the railway across the Isthmus of Panama has now removed every obstacle in the way of this great undertaking, and we are glad to see by the report of the directors that they pledge themselves to use every effort to complete the few remaining miles. The time of transit will not exceed two years. And we observe with satisfaction that it is proposed to employ paddle-wheel steamers of about 3,000 tons, both on the Atlantic and the Pacific passages; and that passengers having secured their berths at Milford Haven, may be sure of duplicate berths from Panama—the vessels being uniform in reference to machinery, proportion, and cabin accommodation. This is an important feature in the project of this steam company; for passengers embarking either in England or Australia will have the same amount of accommodation throughout.

By means of condensers fitted in the paddle-boxes of these steamers, we have congratulated our readers on the adoption of paddle-wheel mode of propulsion by this company, and the speedy arrival from New York at Liverpool of the "Golden Age" American paddle-wheel steamer of 3,000 tons burthen and 1,000 horse power, which is about identical with the vessels proposed by the Australian Direct Steam Navigation Company, will enable the English public to form their judgment upon the matter.

The Americans, who have made enormous profits by steam communication with California by their companies established on both sides of the Isthmus of Panama, are now despatching steam vessels to Australia to teach the mother country how to open an efficient steam communication with her most valuable colonies. The Americans are far too practical a nation to adopt a false mode of steam propulsion, or to make an error in the choice of the route. The following is a short abstract of the advertisement of this vessel:

Her dimensions are—300 feet long, 43 feet beam, and 32 feet

hold. Her accommodations for first, second, and third class passengers, are believed to be superior to any steamer ever built. Her model is unequalled; and it is confidently expected that she will make the trip from Liverpool to Australia in fifty days.

The Company, after mature consideration, have decided upon Milford Haven as the port of departure, from the great advantages it offers of the safest anchorage, entrance, and exit at all times, facilities of repair, supply of coal, and easy communication with London, Liverpool, Manchester, and the North—advantages which scarcely any other port in England can boast of in an equal degree, and which must eventually command for Milford Haven a position as a port second to none in the kingdom. We purpose in our next number to engrave a view of Milford Haven, and to draw more particular attention to this subject; regretting that our space, at present, will not allow us to do, more than wish every success to this noble undertaking, which, among its other advantages, will enable the emigrant to feel himself more closely connected with his home, from the certainty with which he will be able to calculate the time of transit. We have engraved a view of the entrance to the Chagres.

On Monday, the directors of the Windsor Royal Society (of which Prince Albert is the president) opened a lodging-house for unmarried workmen and labourers. There is sleeping accommodation for fifty single men. The lodgers are to be admitted by the week, reckoning from Monday morning, on payment at the rate of 2s. per week, in advance; or, in case of admission after Monday, until the following Monday, when the occupation is to become weekly. Side by side with this new and commodious lodging-house is another house of similar dimensions, licensed under the Public Health Act, and open for the reception of tramps.

On Friday afternoon one of the cottages occupied by the masons engaged at the new palace at Balmoral was discovered to be on fire. In a short time a number of men were on the spot, the Royal family being only present, but actively engaged in efforts to extinguish the flames.

We are assured by a spectator (says the *Aberdeen Herald*) that when a line of men was formed to convey water to the burning pile from the river, Prince Albert at once took a position, and continued working steadily throughout, shoulder to shoulder with a sturdy Highlandman. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred were also actively engaged, while Mr. Major was assisted by the whole staff and got much direction as to what could tend to extinguish the fire, seemingly deeply interested by the efforts of the men to save their clothes' chests, in which many of them had considerable sums of money.

The fire is supposed to have originated by a spark getting among some brushwood in one of the cottages where a woman was baking, and as they were all five composed of timber, the flames were speedily beyond the power of control. No damage has been done to the new buildings.

The good results of the Leeds Recreation Society, presided over by Sir C. Goodman, are familiar to our readers, and have, we hope, stimulated other towns in providing healthy relaxation for the people. The following extract from their last report shows the success of this movement:

During the season twenty-five concerts have been given to crowded and delighted audiences, and, after paying all expenses, a small balance is left in the hands of the treasurer. It is the intention of the committee to proceed with vigour during the ensuing season, engagements having been made with eminent vocalists; the kind feeling of the profession to this movement enabling the committee to engage first-rate talent. Of the sympathy and support of the public to the objects philanthropic in its aim, it is already so successful, the committee are satisfied. Its beneficial effects are already apparent, and many cases of moral improvement have ensued since the commencement of these concerts. The committee are wishful to second the efforts of the Early Closing Association, by giving concerts to suit that class as often as possible; and in the arrangements made they have not been forgotten. The committee wish to inform the public that the other objects contemplated by this society were a gymnasium and reading-rooms in various parts of the town. It is for the public to determine whether song part of this scheme is not called for at the present time to afford the means of improvement to a highly respectable class of the community.

#### THE CRYSTAL PALACE AND THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.—One of many similar meetings was

lately held at the Philosophical Hall, Huddersfield, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning Parliament to remove all legal obstruction to the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sunday. The Hall was filled, and on the platform was a large number of the clergy and respectable inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. The object of the meeting was the repeal of an obsolete act which rendered it illegal to open the Crystal Palace on a Sunday. It ran as follows:—"Whereas certain houses, rooms, or places, within the city of London or Westminster, or in the neighbourhood thereof, have of late frequently been opened for public entertainment or amusement upon the evening of the Lord's day, commonly called Sunday, and as in other houses, rooms, or places, within the said cities, or in the neighbourhood thereof, under pretence of inquiring into religious doctrines, and explaining texts of Holy Scriptures, debates have frequently been held on the evening of the Lord's day concerning divers texts of Holy Scriptures by persons unlearned or incompetent to explain the same, to the corruption of good morals, and to the encouragement of irreligion and profaneness. Be it therefore enacted, from and after the passing of this act, that any house, room, or place, which may be so opened for public entertainment or amusement, or for publicly debating upon any part of the Lord's day called Sunday, and to which persons may be admitted by the payment of money, or by tickets sold for money, shall be deemed a disorderly house or place, and the keeper thereof shall forfeit the sum of £200 for every such day he shall so keep open." It was to petition for the repeal of that clause of the enactment that they had been called together. The Chairman then spoke of the benefits that would be derived by the opening of the "People's Palace" on Sundays, was interrupted by Mr. Colin Brown amidst loud cries of "order," "chair," and "sit down." After some discussion Mr. Hanson vacated the chair in favour of Mr. Thomas Firth jun., who was greeted with loud cheers from all parts of the hall. He said he was not sorry they had put him into it. "He should merely put the state of the case before the meeting at a suitable time." Mr. Edward Clayton then addressed the meeting in favour of opening the Crystal Palace on Sundays. Mr. Josiah Rhodes seconded the resolution. He did it upon the general principle of liberty, and for the sake not only of the people of London and its suburbs, but for the sake of humanity at large. An amendment was proposed by Mr. C. Broome. "That Sunday is one of the greatest blessings which all classes, and especially the working classes, possess, and ought not to be infringed under any pretence whatever." Mr. Farnham observed, "I could secnd that with the greatest pleasure;" and Mr. J. Rhodes said, "I could vot for that myself." The Rev. J. Battersby seconded the amendment in a learned and lengthy speech, quoting Homer, the Scriptures, Eusebius, Ignatius, Barnabas, and several other of the Fathers. Mr. Hanson advocated the opening of the Palaces on Sundays, by references to Paley, John Milton, and Hengstenberg, the last of whom mentioned by Pliny applied to Wednesday and Friday, as well as to the first. He had a sermon in his pocket, preached on the subject of the Crystal Palace, by the Rev. J. Maurice, Professor of Divinity in King's College, London, last November. He wished the gentleman who spoke last would read that sermon, as it might suggest a different course of thought to that in which he had indulged. [hear, hear]. He objected to their being branded with the name of infidels and atheists because they contended for the opening of the Crystal Palace on social grounds, not wishing to impede the progress of Christianity. Several other speakers addressed the meeting. After which the Chairman put the amendment, which had a large number of supporters; but the original motion was carried by a decided majority, amidst loud cheering. A vote of thanks having been tendered to the Chairman, the proceedings terminated about 11 o'clock.

Printed by SAMUEL COCKSHAW, at No. 6, HORSE SHOE-COURT, Ludgate-Hill. Published by CHARLES JAMES BLAKE, at No. 4, ANN'S-PLACE, Upper SYCAMORE, London Agent, JOHN WESLEY and CO., Booksellers, 52, PATERNOSTER-ROW.—October, 1853.